

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

NO.56 US \$1.75
MAR. CAN \$1.85

SONIC

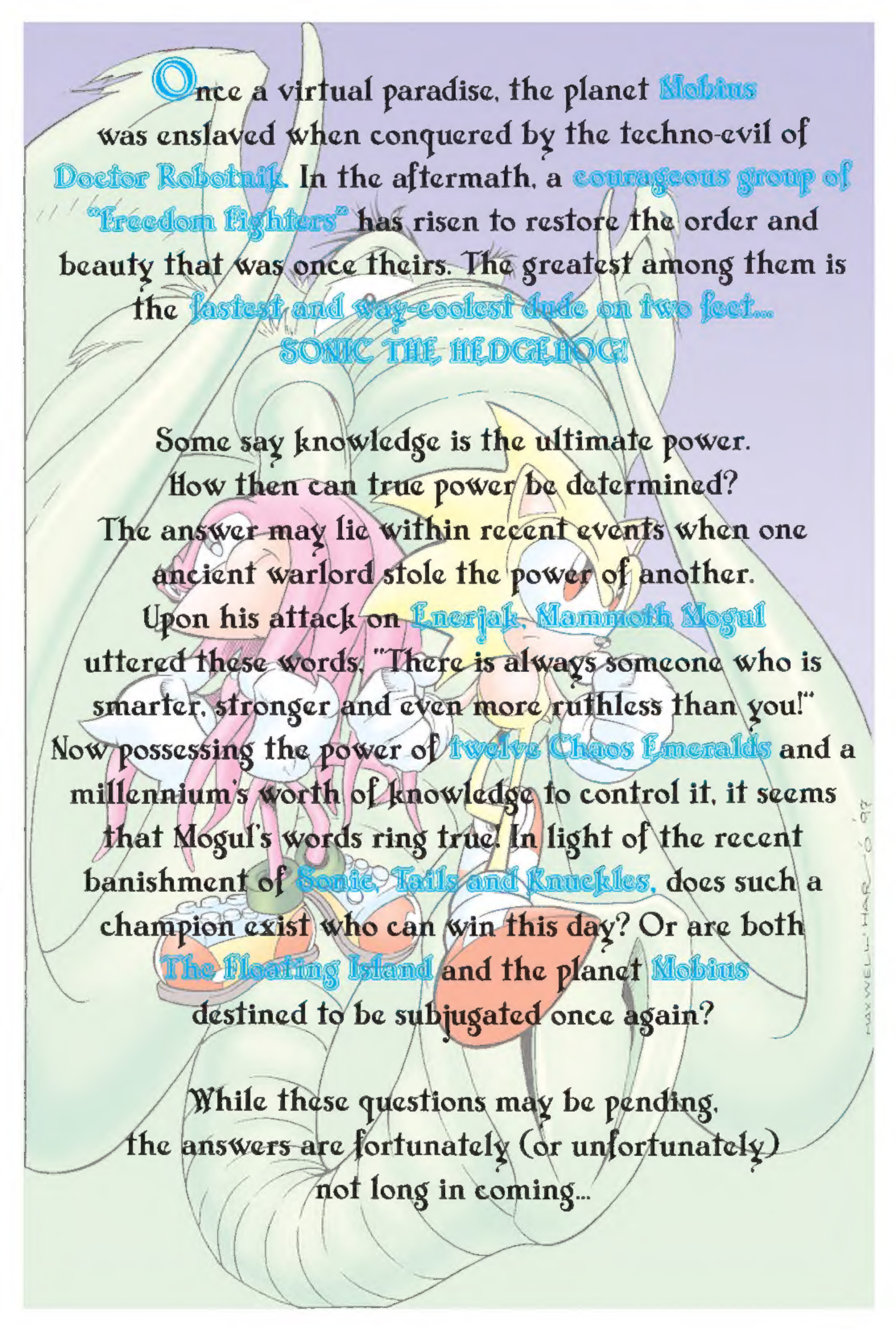
THE HEDGEHOG

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

TM



SPA2,
WARB



Once a virtual paradise, the planet **Mobius** was enslaved when conquered by the techno-evil of **Doctor Robotnik**. In the aftermath, a **courageous group of "Freedom Fighters"** has risen to restore the order and beauty that was once theirs. The greatest among them is the **fastest and way-coolest dude on two feet...**
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

Some say knowledge is the ultimate power.

How then can true power be determined?

The answer may lie within recent events when one ancient warlord stole the power of another.

Upon his attack on **Enerjak**, **Mammoth Mogul** uttered these words, "There is always someone who is smarter, stronger and even more ruthless than you!"

Now possessing the power of **twelve Chaos Emeralds** and a millennium's worth of knowledge to control it, it seems that Mogul's words ring true! In light of the recent banishment of **Sonic, Tails and Knuckles**, does such a champion exist who can win this day? Or are both **The Floating Island** and the planet **Mobius** destined to be subjugated once again?

While these questions may be pending, the answers are fortunately (or unfortunately) not long in coming...

MAX WELLS HARVARD '97



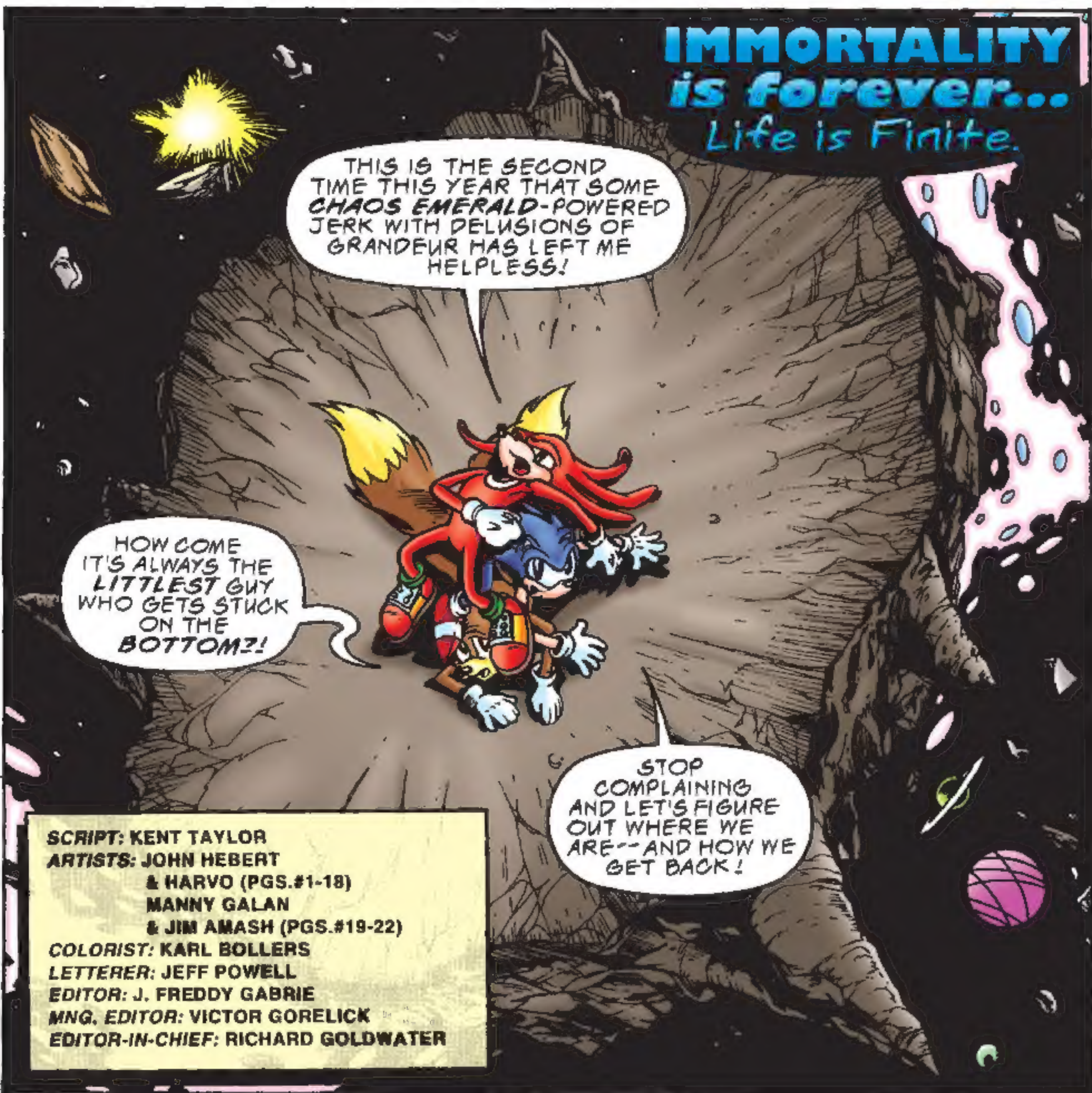
AGH! YOUR SPINES ARE JABBING MY HEAD!



UGH! BIG DEAL! YOUR CLAWS ARE JABBING MY SPINE!



YECCH! BOTH OF YOU GET YOUR DIRTY FEET OUTTA MY FACE!



IMMORTALITY
is forever...
Life is Finite.

THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR THAT SOME CHAOS EMERALD-POWERED JERK WITH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR HAS LEFT ME HELPLESS!

HOW COME IT'S ALWAYS THE LITTLEST GUY WHO GETS STUCK ON THE BOTTOM?!

STOP COMPLAINING AND LET'S FIGURE OUT WHERE WE ARE-- AND HOW WE GET BACK!

SCRIPT: KENT TAYLOR
ARTISTS: JOHN HEBERT & HARVO (PGS.#1-18)
MANNY GALAN & JIM AMASH (PGS.#19-22)
COLORIST: KARL BOLLERS
LETTERER: JEFF POWELL
EDITOR: J. FREDDY GABRIE
MNG. EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

FIRST IT WAS MY POWER-MAD ANCESTOR, AND THEN THAT "MAMMOTH" IDIOT SENDS US TO THIS HOLE!

I WONDER WHAT JELLY-BELLY DID WITH THE REST OF OUR BUDS!

* "UNCLE ENERJAK" BROKE DOWN HIS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE IN KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL.2! -- EDITOR

WHAT THE?! SOME KINDA ROCK QUAKE?

SONIC! I THINK THE ROCK'S ALIVE!

DON'T BE STUPID, KID!

NO, WAIT! HE'S RIGHT! LOOKOUT!

AGH! IT'S GOT ME!

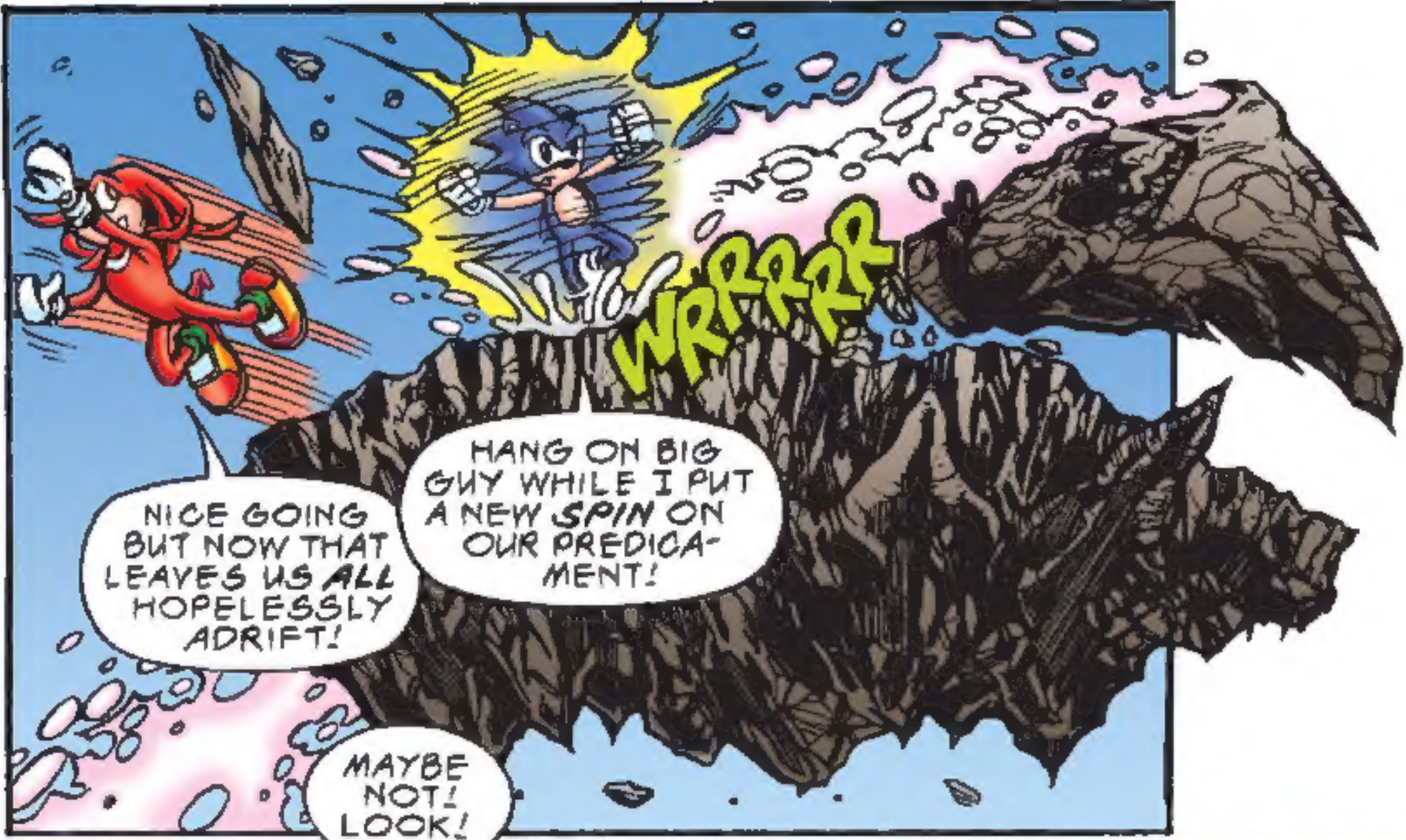
DON'T WORRY! I'LL PULL YOU FREE!

LET GO!

THE GRAVITY HERE IS WACKO! I'M DOING ZIG ZAGS!

BRACK

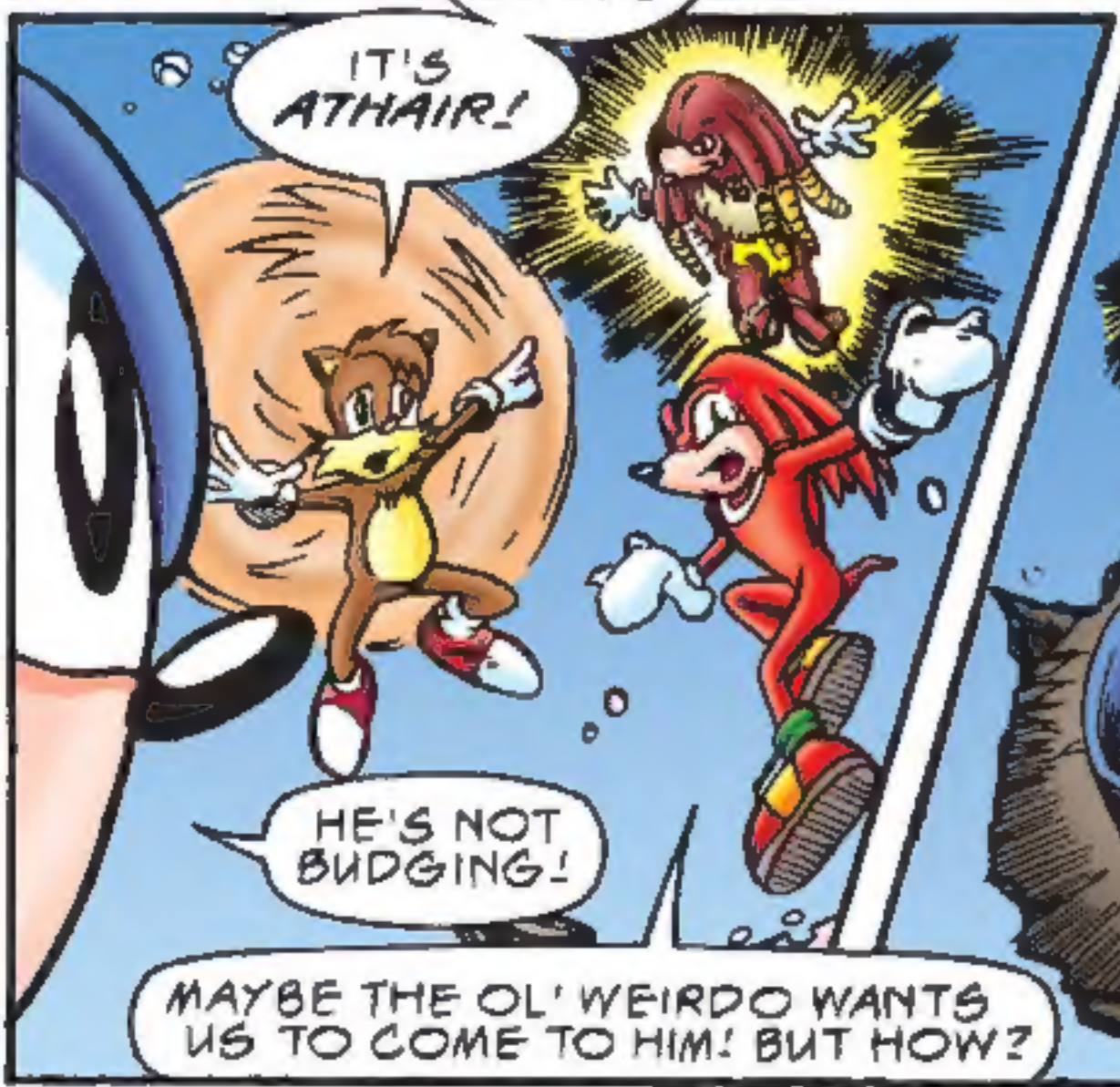




NICE GOING BUT NOW THAT LEAVES US ALL HOPELESSLY ADRIPT!

HANG ON BIG GUY WHILE I PUT A NEW SPIN ON OUR PREDICAMENT!

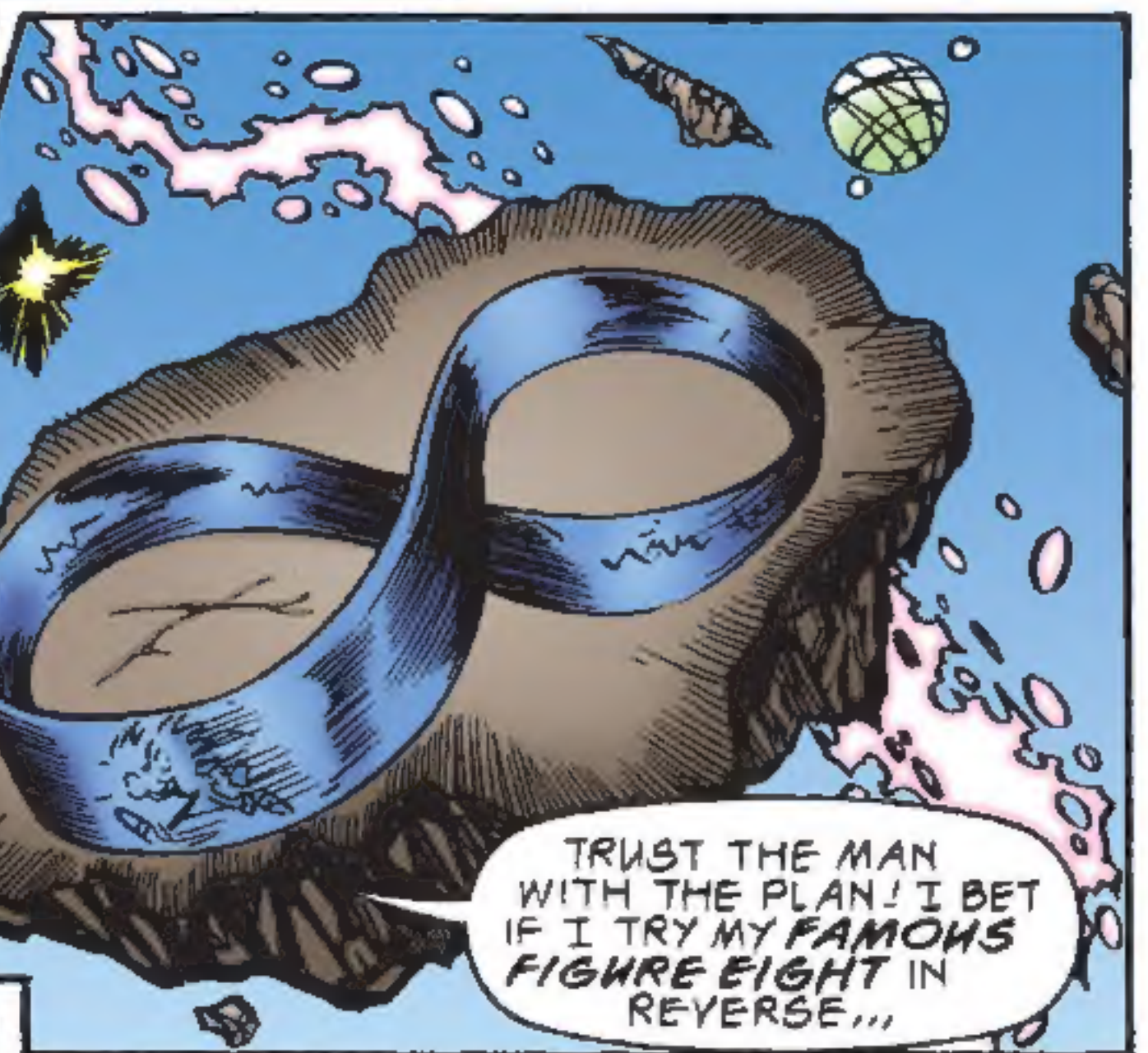
MAYBE NOT! LOOK!



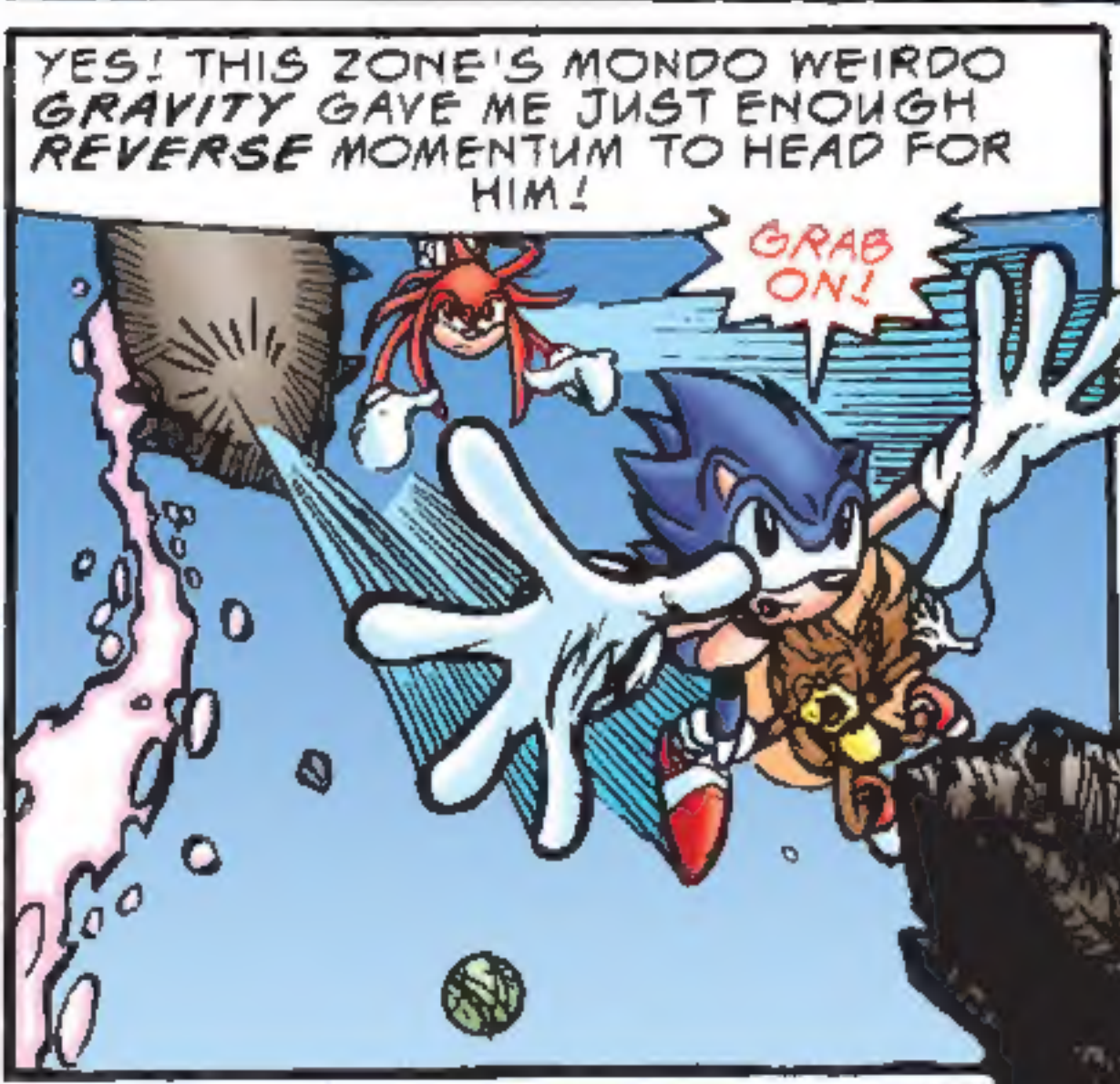
IT'S ATHAIR!

HE'S NOT BUDGING!

MAYBE THE OL' WEIRDO WANTS US TO COME TO HIM! BUT HOW?

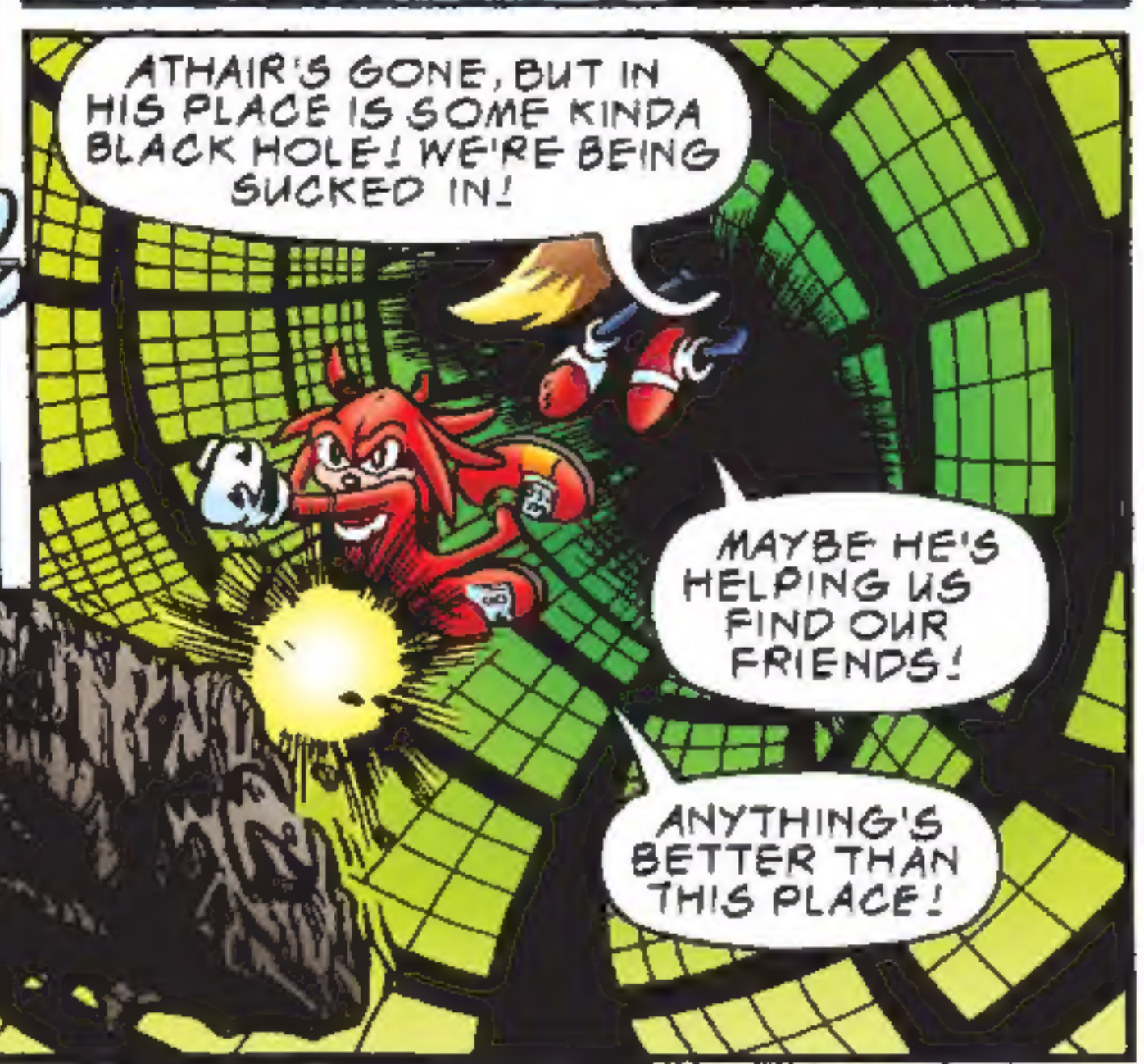


TRUST THE MAN WITH THE PLAN! I BET IF I TRY MY FAMOHS FIGURE EIGHT IN REVERSE...



YES! THIS ZONE'S MONDO WEIRDO GRAVITY GAVE ME JUST ENOUGH REVERSE MOMENTUM TO HEAD FOR HIM!

GRAB ON!

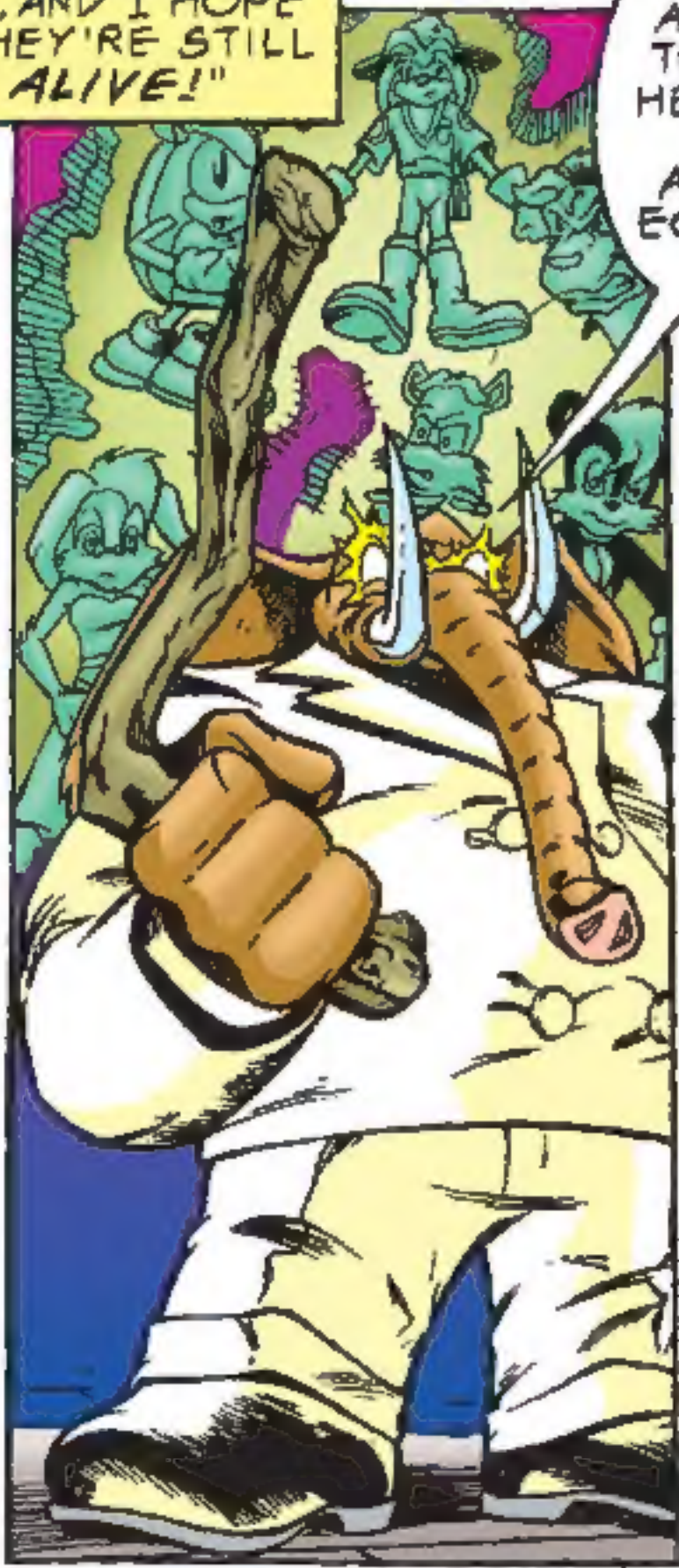


ATHAIR'S GONE, BUT IN HIS PLACE IS SOME KINDA BLACK HOLE! WE'RE BEING SUCKED IN!

MAYBE HE'S HELPING US FIND OUR FRIENDS!

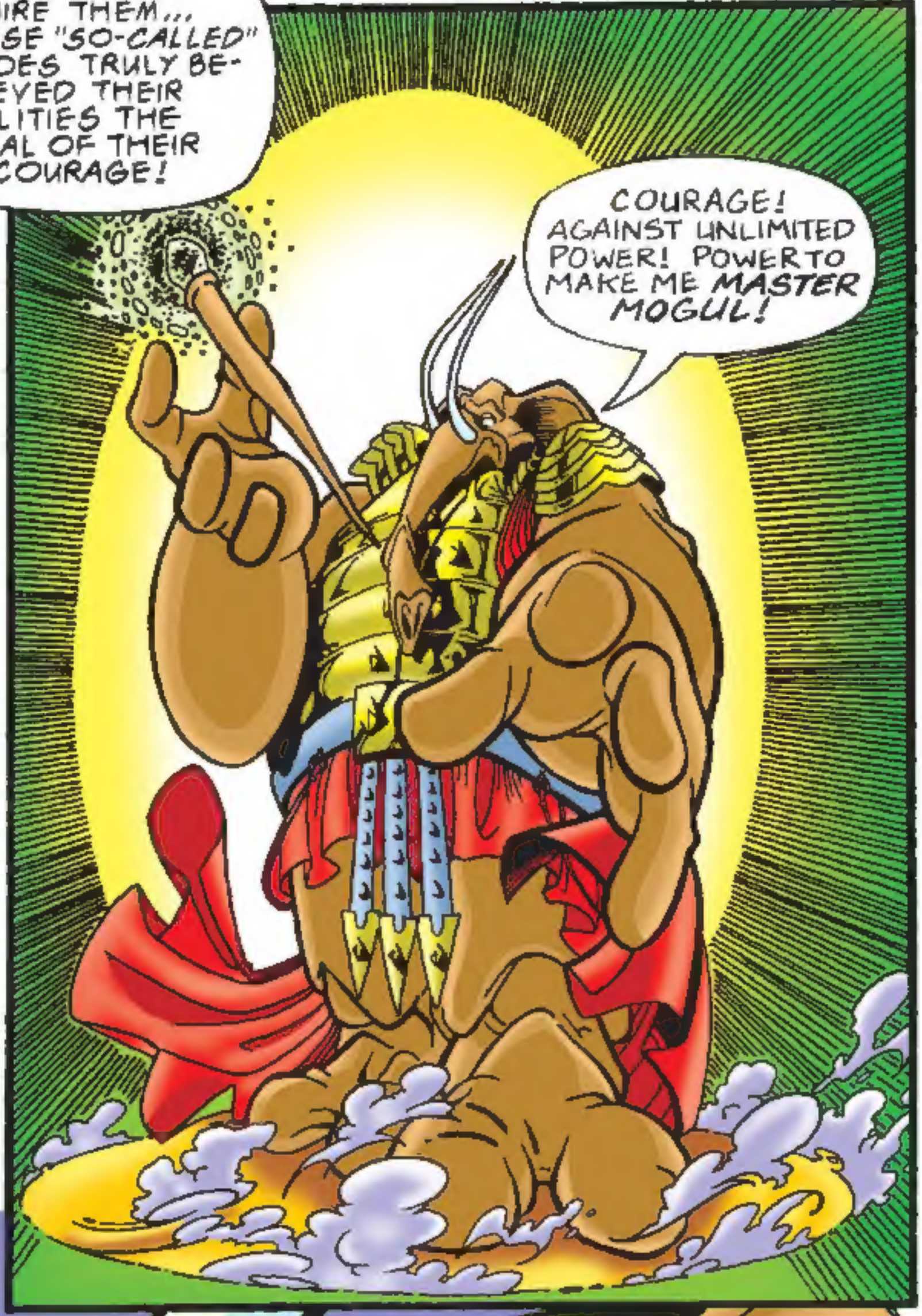
ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN THIS PLACE!

"...AND I HOPE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!"



I ALMOST ADMIRE THEM... THESE "SO-CALLED" HEROES TRULY BELIEVED THEIR ABILITIES THE EQUAL OF THEIR COURAGE!

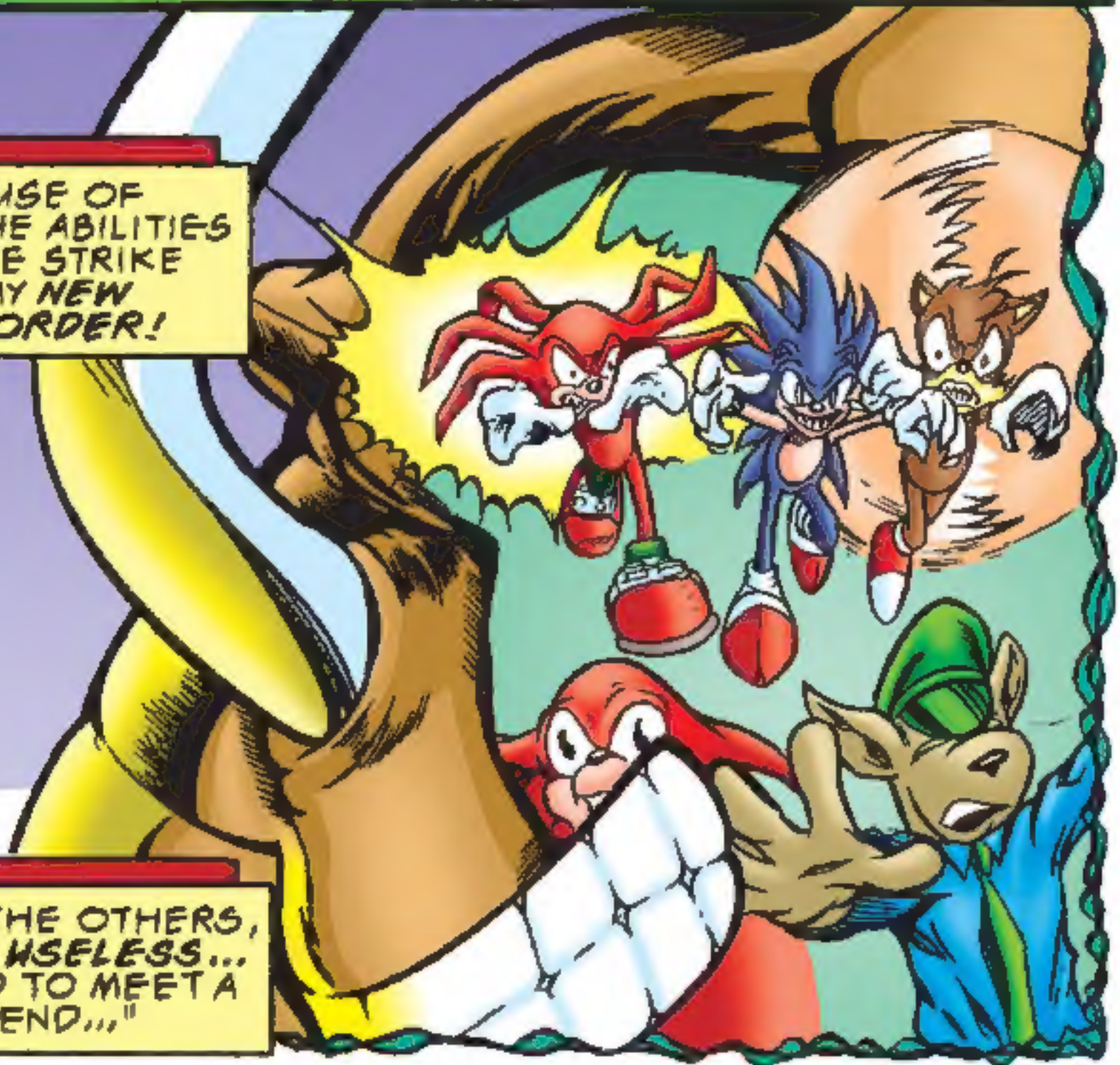
COURAGE! AGAINST UNLIMITED POWER! POWER TO MAKE ME MASTER MOGUL!



THE THREE WHO MAY HAVE POSED A THREAT HAVE BEEN BANISHED, HOPELESSLY LOST UNTIL I RETRIEVE THEM...

"...MAKING USE OF THEIR UNIQUE ABILITIES AS THE ELITE STRIKE FORCE OF MY NEW WORLD ORDER!"

"AS FOR THE OTHERS, THEY ARE USELESS... DESTINED TO MEET A SWIFT END..."



"...WHEN THEY
CEASE COVERING
IN THE SHADOWS
AND RESIGN THEM-
SELVES TO THEIR
FINAL FATE!"

WE'RE NOT
COVERING, BUSTER,
AND WE'LL SOON
PROVE IT!

I'M
EQUALLY
FRUSTRATED,
PRINCESS,
BUT WE BOTH
REALIZED
OUR ONLY
RECOURSE
WAS A
STRATEGIC
WITH-
DRAWAL!

I AGREE! OUR
FRIENDS MAY HAVE
PROVEN TOO
ANXIOUS BY ATTEMPT-
ING TO FACE MAMMOTH
DIRECTLY...

...BUT AT
LEAST WE'RE
FREE TO PLAN
A COUNTER
ATTACK!

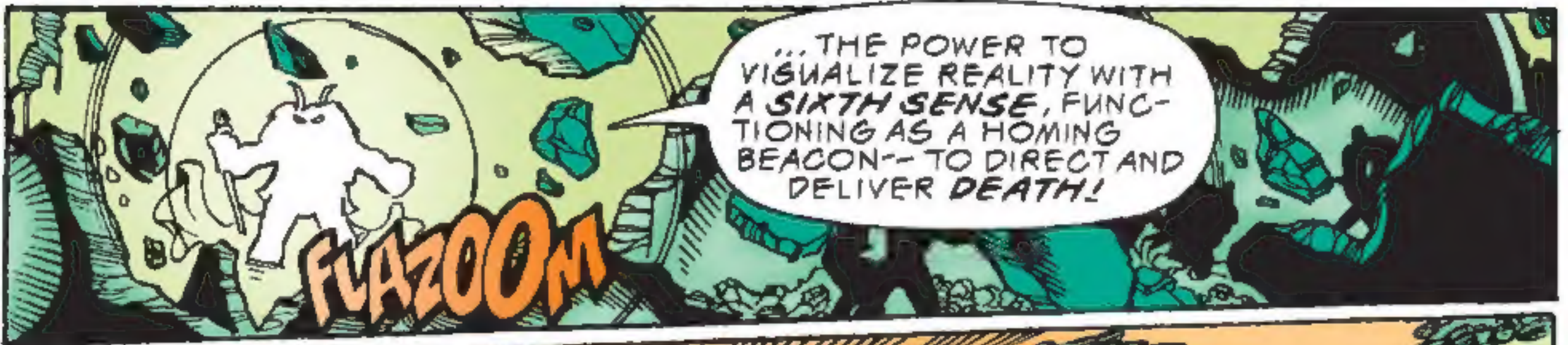
A PLAN ISN'T
NEEDED, IT'S POWER!
AND NO ONE HAS
THE POWER TO
STOP MOGUL!

DON'T BE TOO
SURE! THIS UNIVERSE
PLAYS HOST TO PHE-
NOMENA A YOUNG
BOY LIKE YOU COULD
SCARCELY IMAGINE!

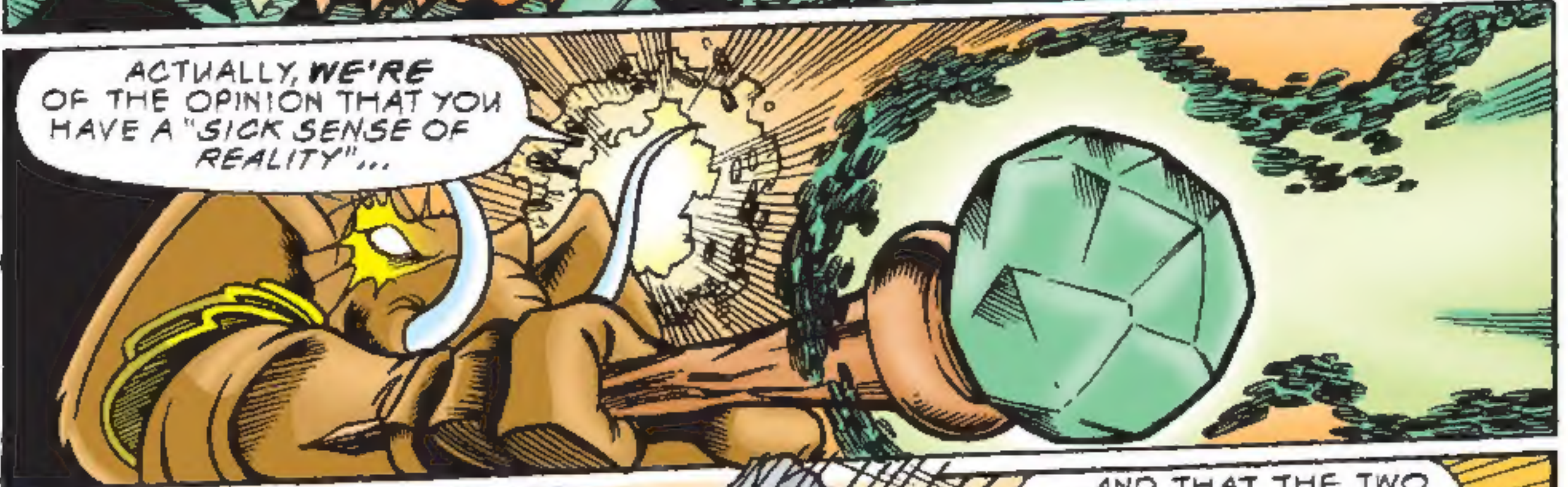
TECHNICALLY
THE BOY IS CORRECT--
NO ONE HAS THE
POWER TO CHALLENGE
THE PHENOM I HAVE
BECOME...

SHAKOOM

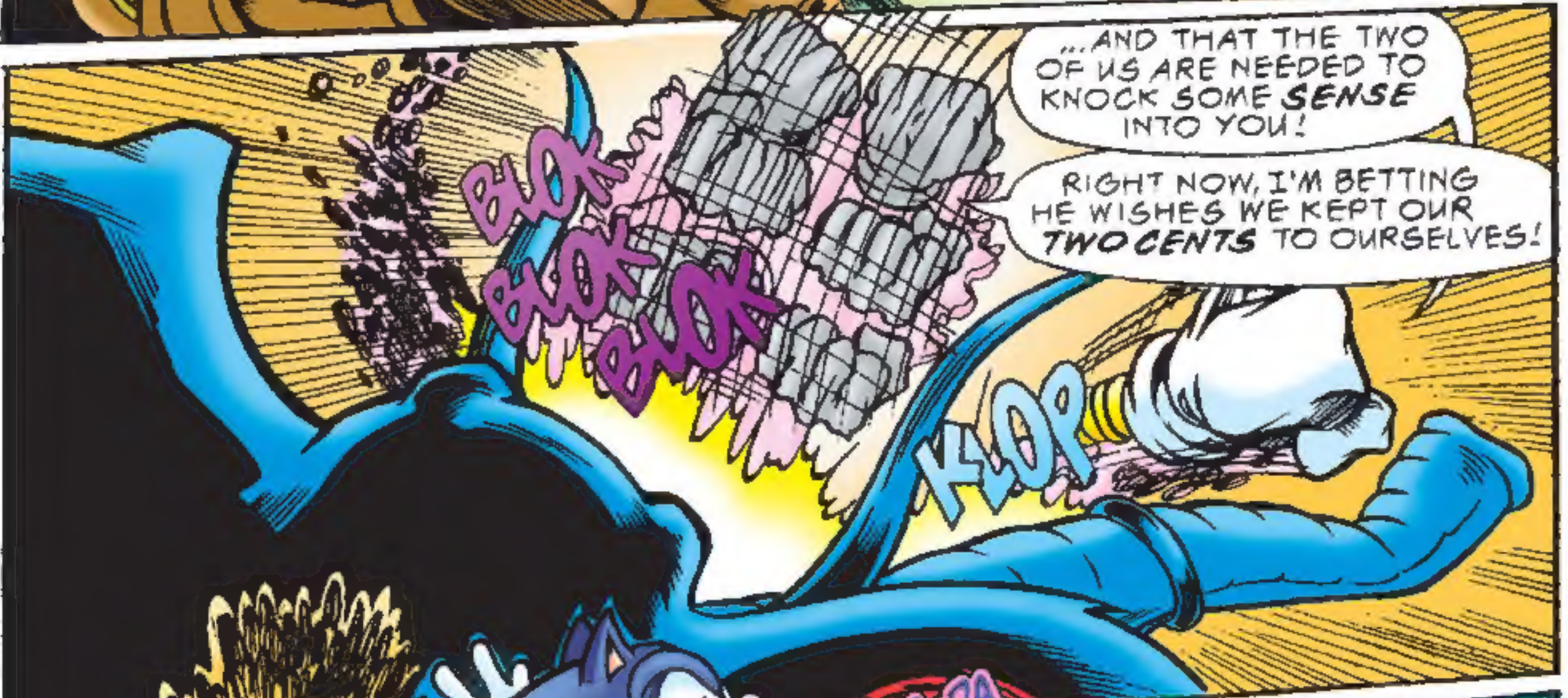
FORGET
PLANNING
OR POWER...
EVERYONE
SCATTER!



... THE POWER TO VISUALIZE REALITY WITH A **SIXTH SENSE**, FUNCTIONING AS A **HOMING BEACON**-- TO DIRECT AND DELIVER **DEATH!**

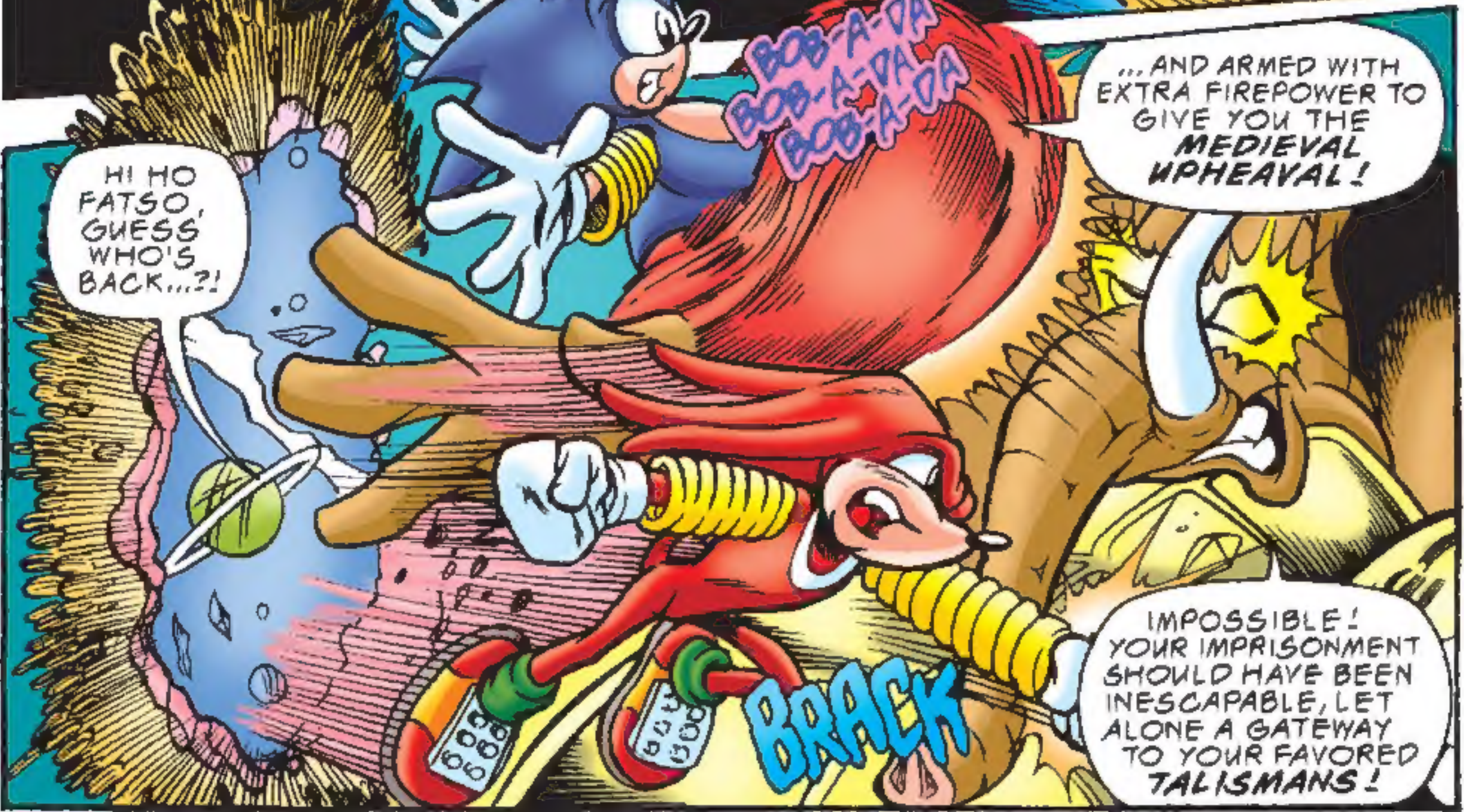


ACTUALLY, WE'RE OF THE OPINION THAT YOU HAVE A "**SICK SENSE OF REALITY**"...



... AND THAT THE TWO OF US ARE NEEDED TO KNOCK SOME **SENSE** INTO YOU!

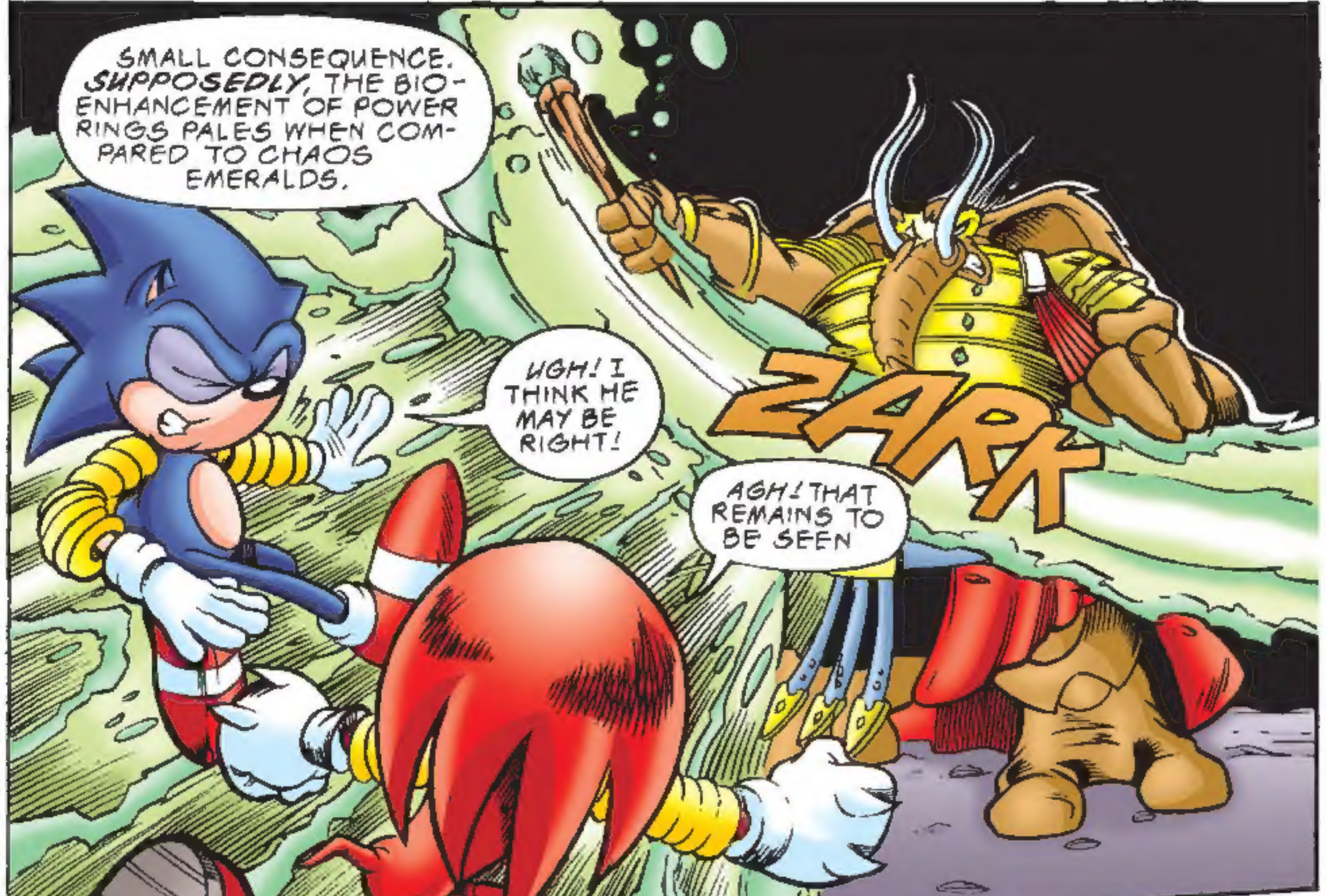
RIGHT NOW, I'M BETTING HE WISHES WE KEPT OUR **TWO CENTS** TO OURSELVES!



HI HO **FATSO**, GUESS WHO'S **BACK**...?!

... AND ARMED WITH **EXTRA FIREPOWER** TO GIVE YOU THE **MEDIEVAL UPHEAVAL!**

IMPOSSIBLE! YOUR IMPRISONMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN **INESCAPABLE**, LET ALONE A **GATEWAY** TO YOUR FAVORED **TALISMANS!**



SMALL CONSEQUENCE. *SUPPOSEDLY*, THE BIO-ENHANCEMENT OF POWER RINGS PALES WHEN COMPARED TO CHAOS EMERALDS.

UGH! I THINK HE MAY BE RIGHT!

AGH! THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN



...BUT THIS TIME IT WILL BE FROM THE MORTAL PLANE!

SONIC!
KNUCKLES!
NO!

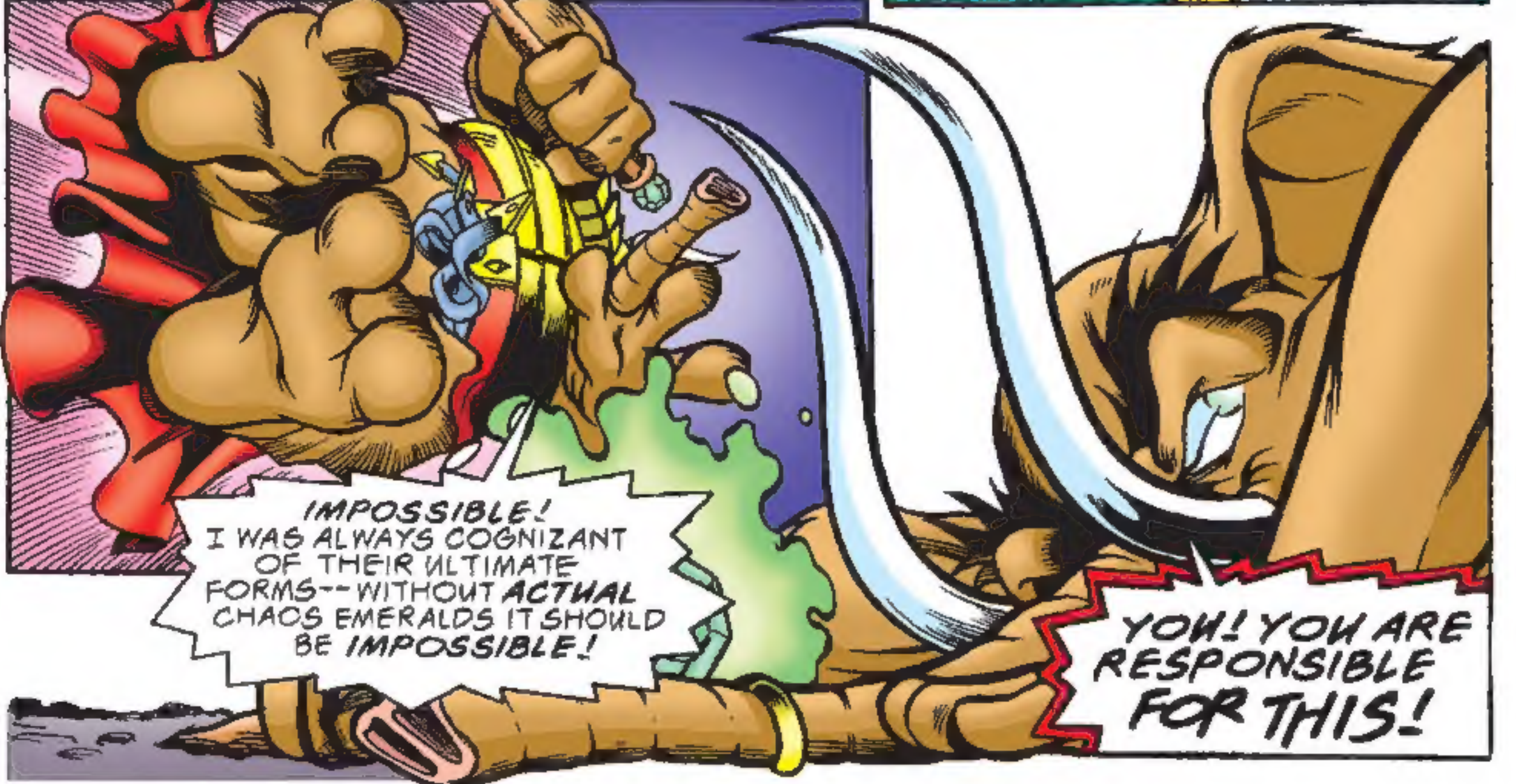
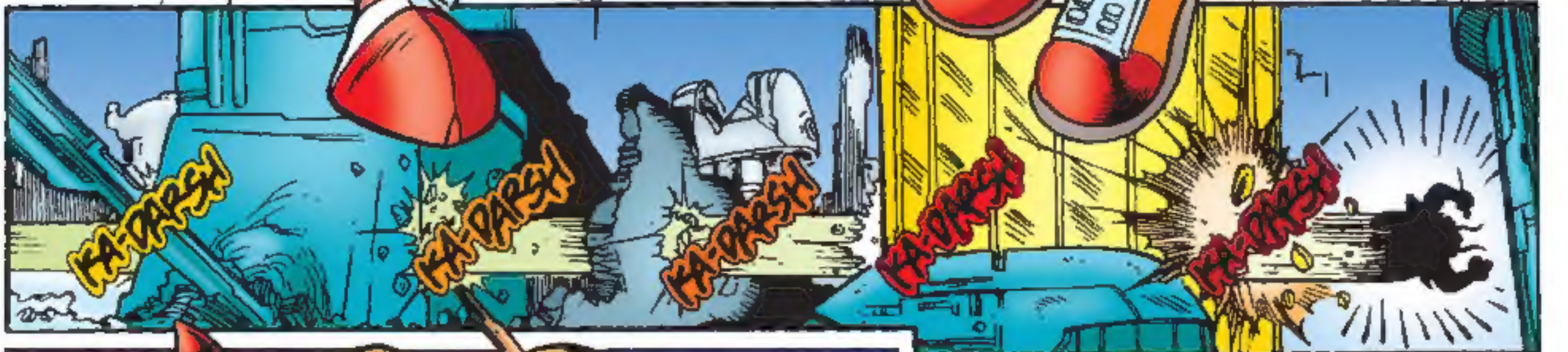
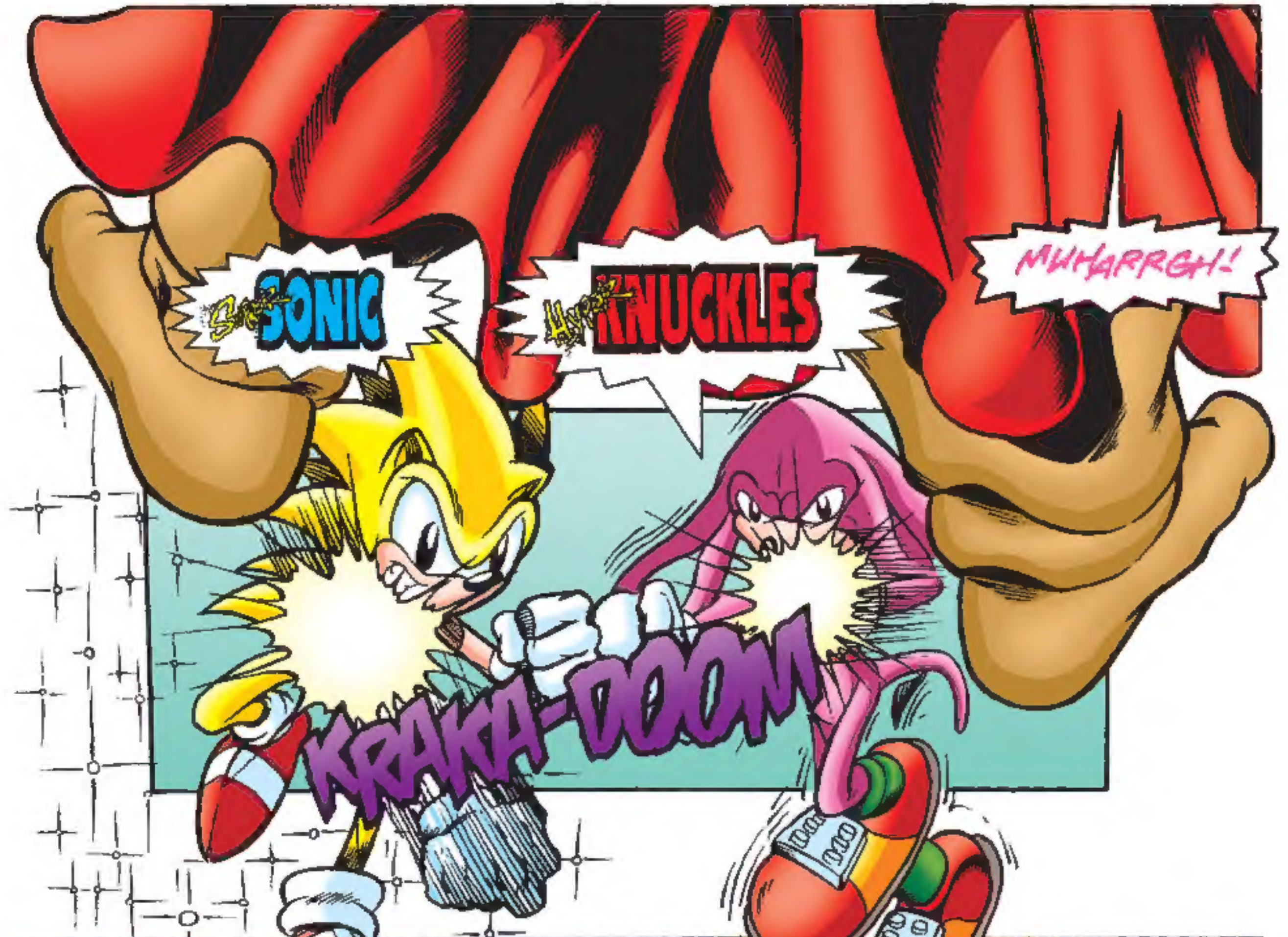
REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU OBTAINED THE RINGS AND RETURNED TO THIS PLANE, BY MY WILL, YOU ONCE AGAIN DEPART...

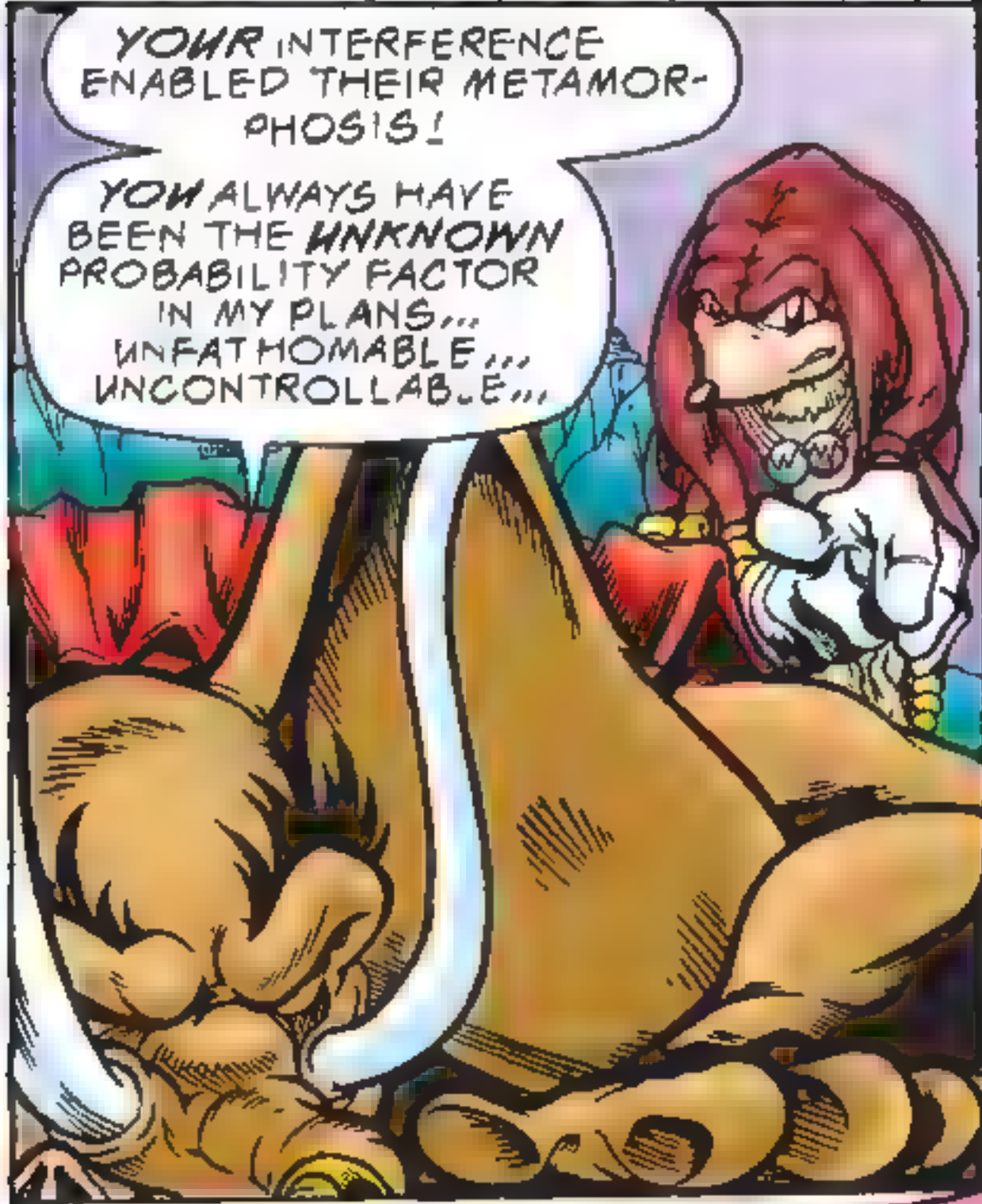


WHAT?!! THEY SEEM TO BATHE IN MY ENERGY, ALMOST ABSORB IT LIKE I DID DIMITRI'S!

THAT'S RIGHT! NOW WE FINALLY UNDERSTAND THE REAL REASON WE LUGGED BACK THESE POWER RINGS!

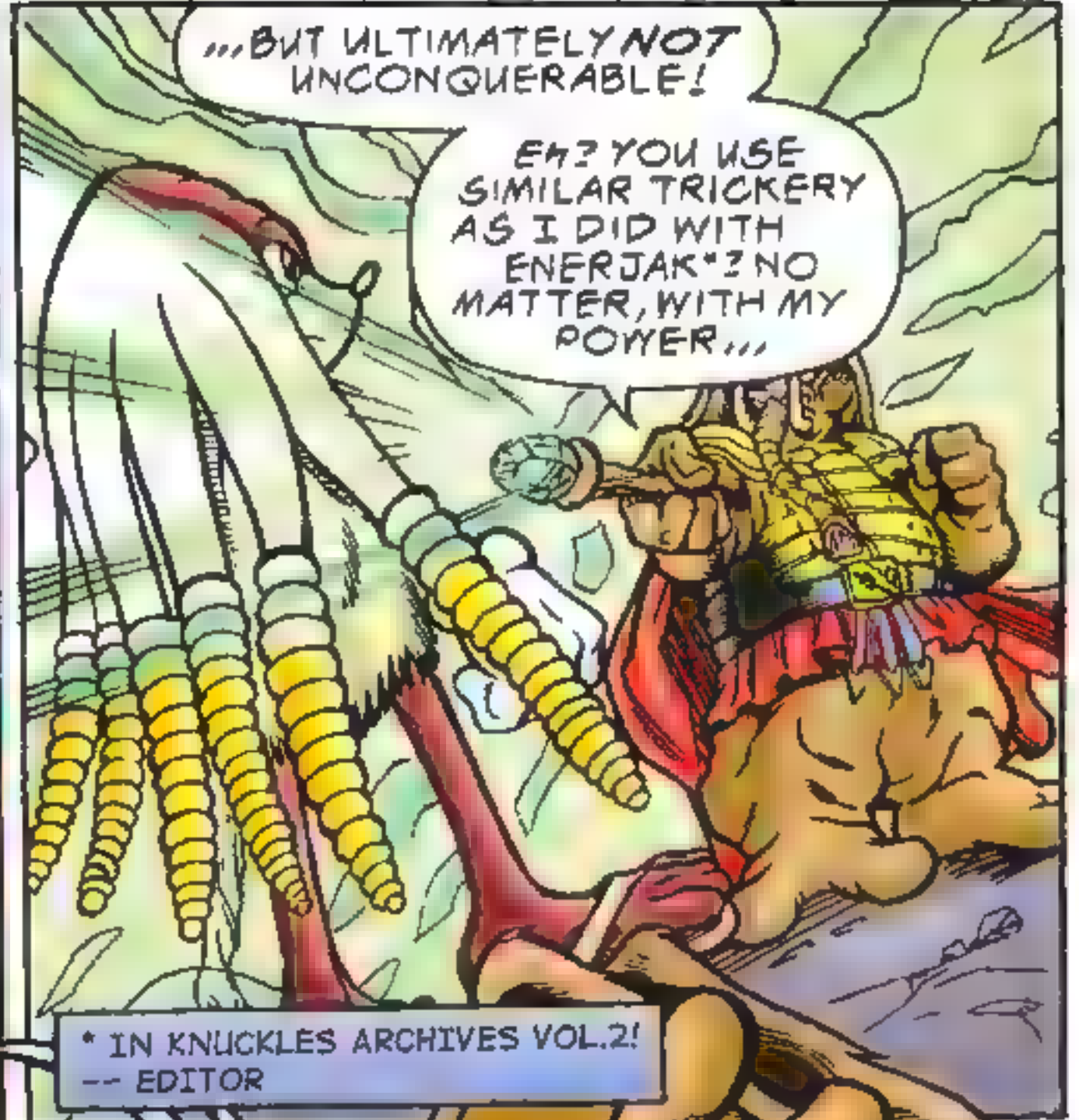
YUP! FIFTY POWER RINGS EACH, COMBINED WITH YOUR ENERGY OF TWELVE CHAOS EMERALDS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH POWER TO HERALD THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF...





YOUR INTERFERENCE ENABLED THEIR METAMORPHOSIS!

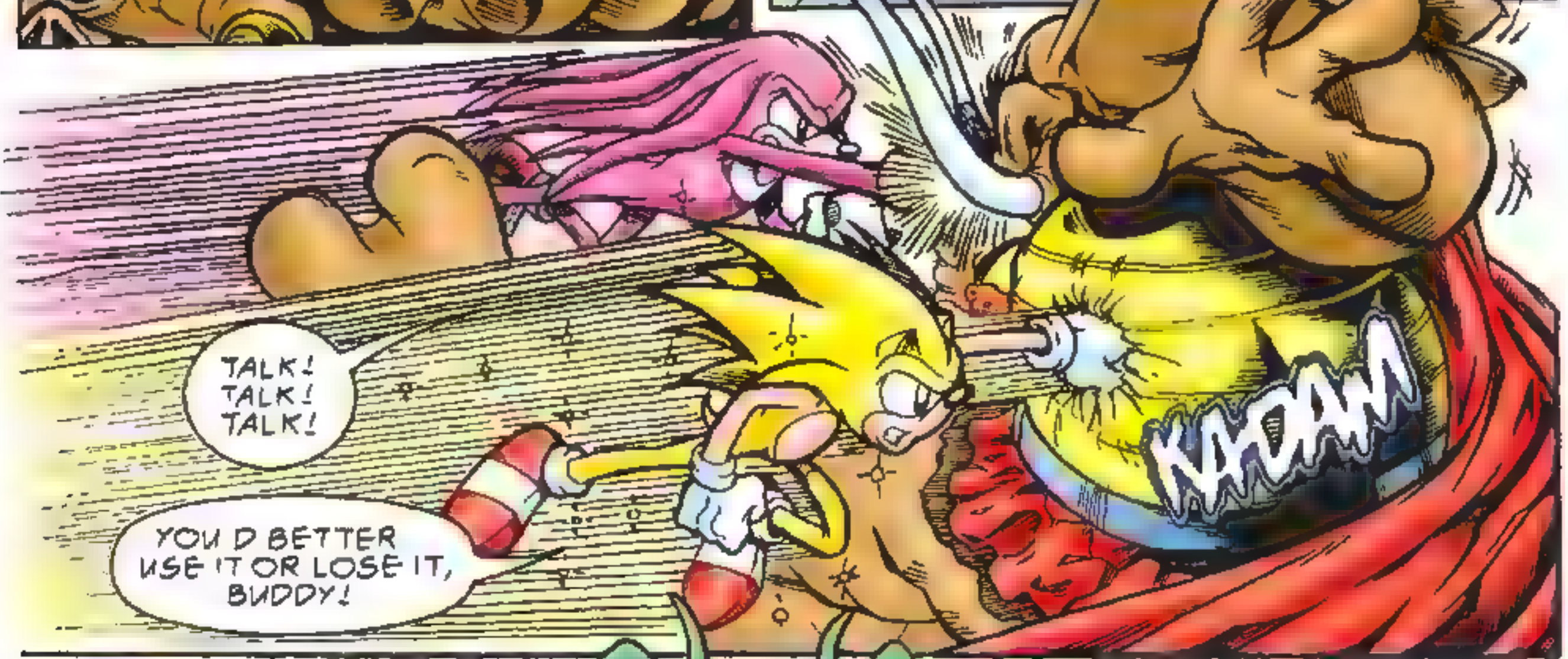
YOU ALWAYS HAVE BEEN THE UNKNOWN PROBABILITY FACTOR IN MY PLANS... UNFATHOMABLE... UNCONTROLLABLE...



...BUT ULTIMATELY NOT UNCONQUERABLE!

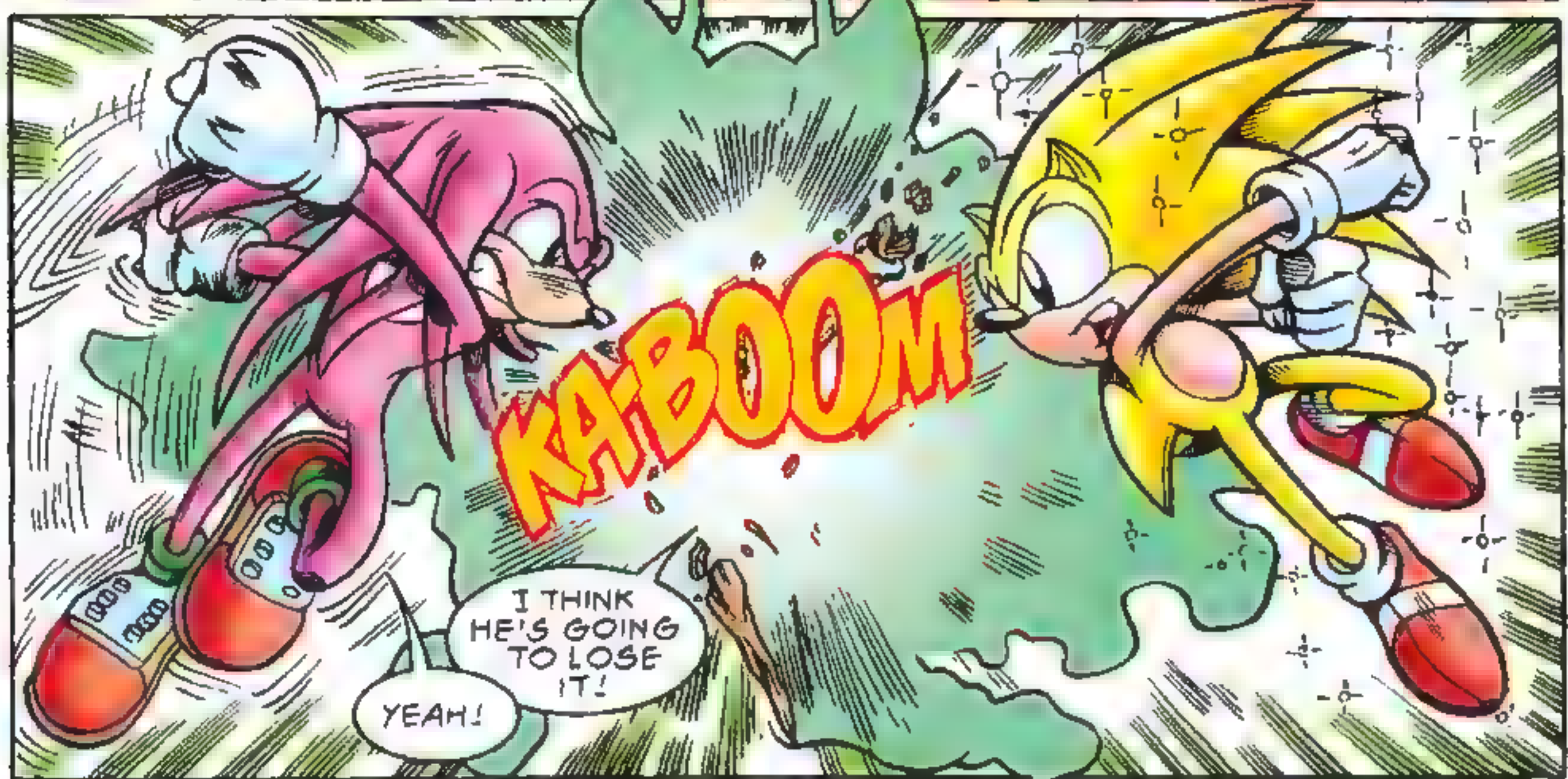
EH? YOU USE SIMILAR TRICKERY AS I DID WITH ENERJAK? NO MATTER, WITH MY POWER...

* IN KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL.2!
-- EDITOR



TALK!
TALK!
TALK!

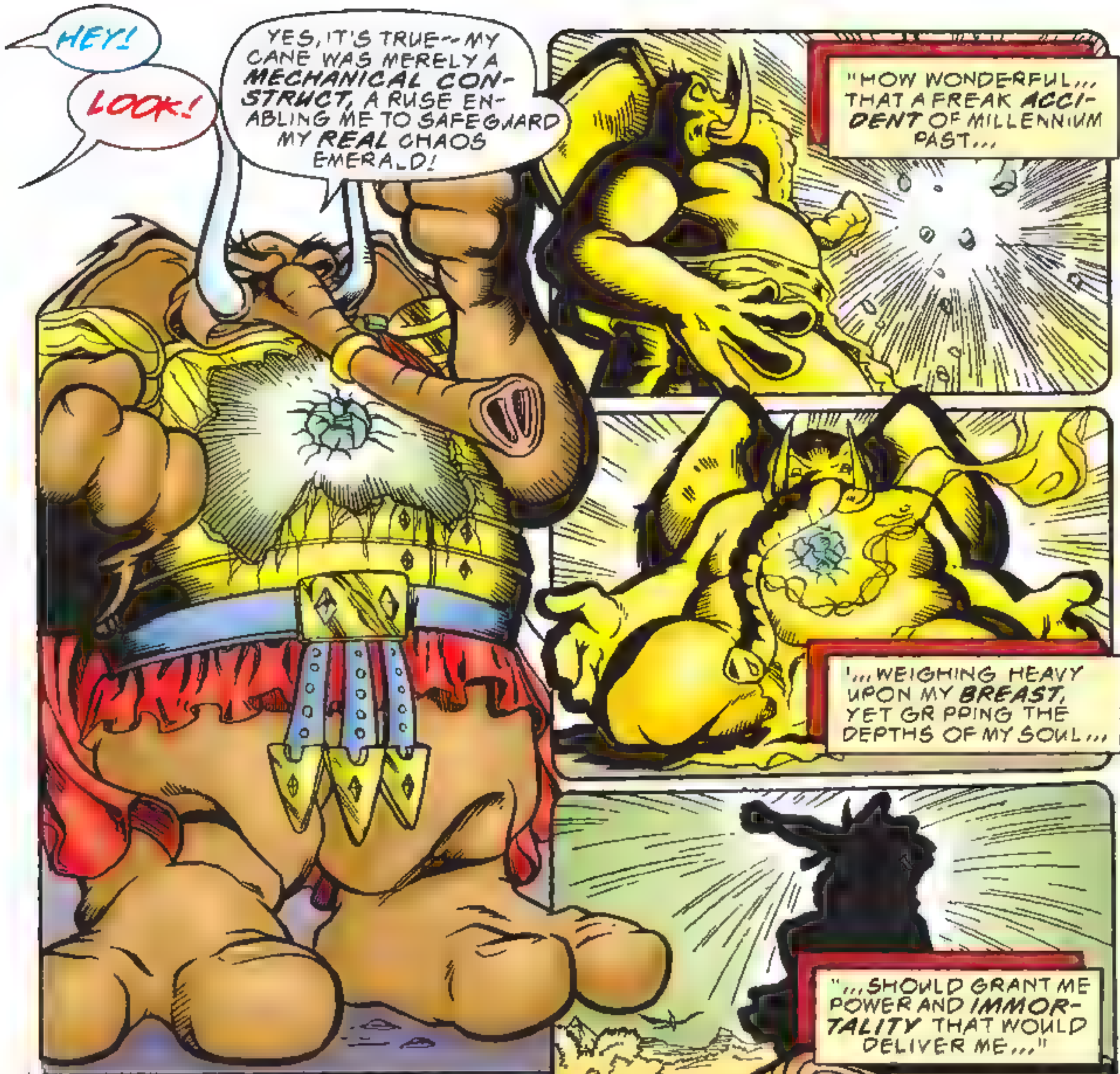
YOU'D BETTER USE IT OR LOSE IT, BUDDY!



KABOOM!

I THINK HE'S GOING TO LOSE IT!

YEAH!



HEY!

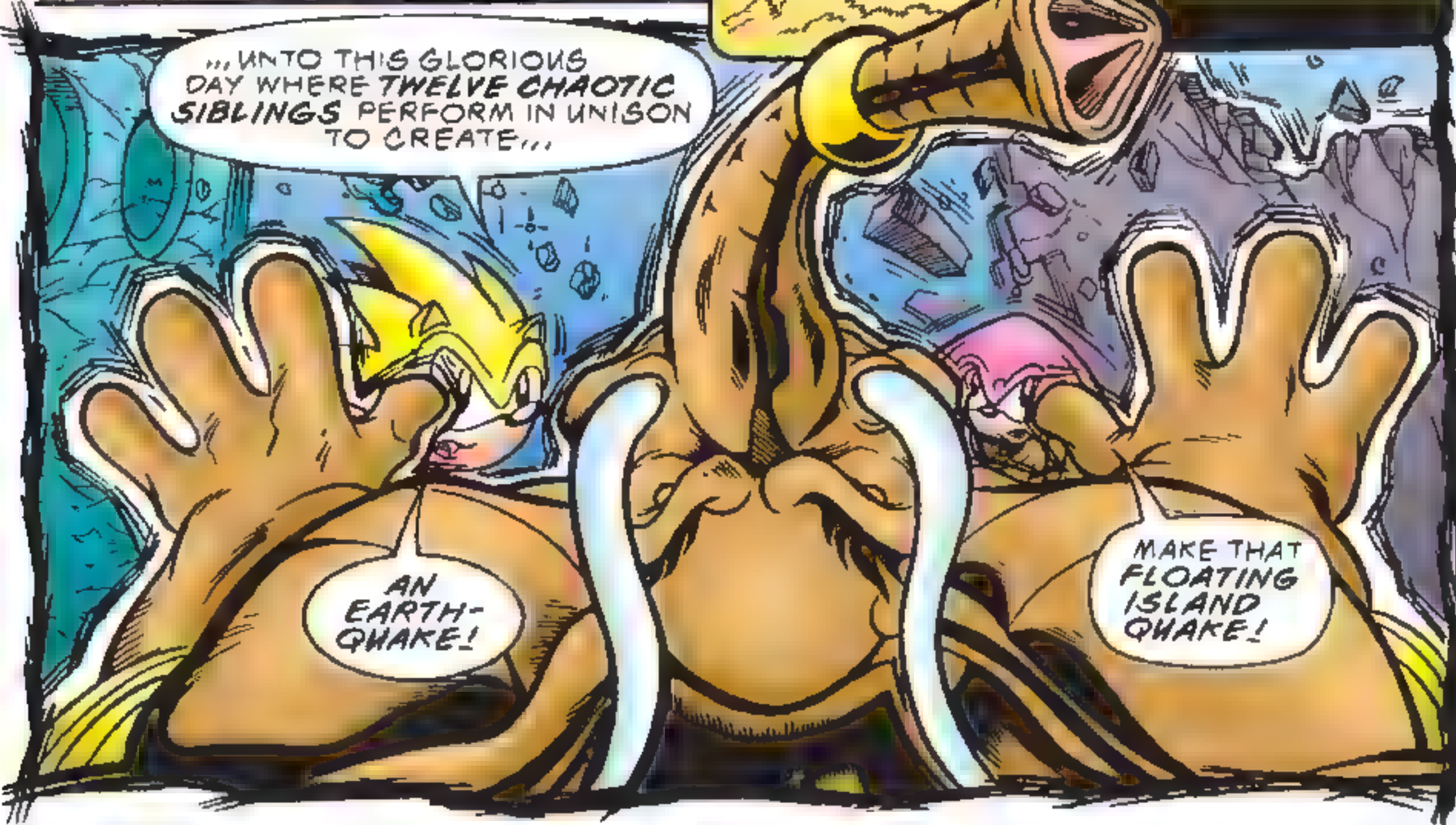
LOOK!

YES, IT'S TRUE-- MY CANE WAS MERELY A MECHANICAL CONSTRUCT, A RUSE ENABLING ME TO SAFEGUARD MY REAL CHAOS EMERALD!

"HOW WONDERFUL... THAT A FREAK ACCIDENT OF MILLENNIUM PAST..."

"...WEIGHING HEAVY UPON MY BREAST, YET GRIPPING THE DEPTHS OF MY SOUL..."

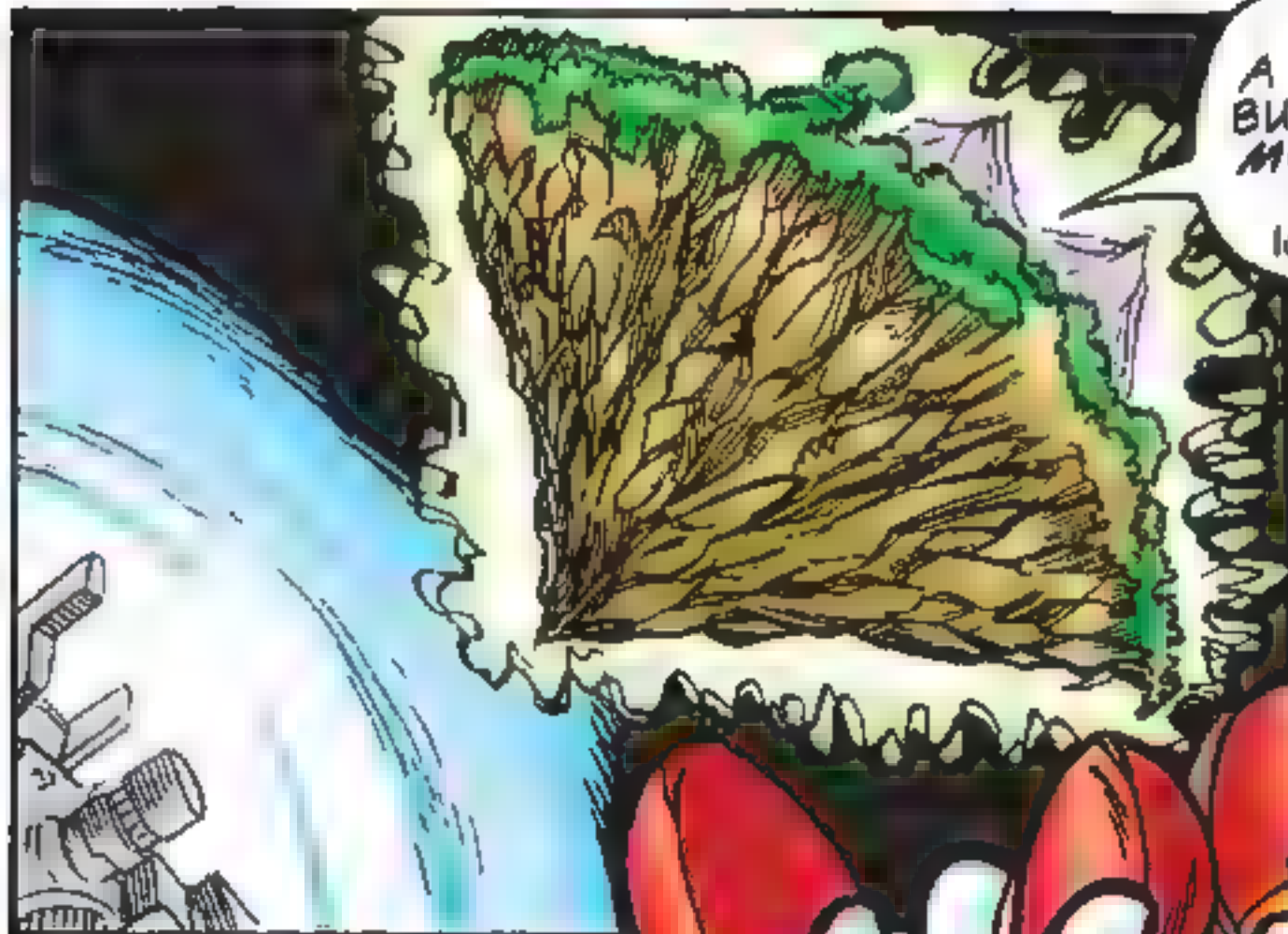
"...SHOULD GRANT ME POWER AND IMMORTALITY THAT WOULD DELIVER ME..."



"...UNTO THIS GLORIOUS DAY WHERE TWELVE CHAOTIC SIBLINGS PERFORM IN UNISON TO CREATE..."

AN EARTH-QUAKE!

MAKE THAT FLOATING ISLAND QUAKE!

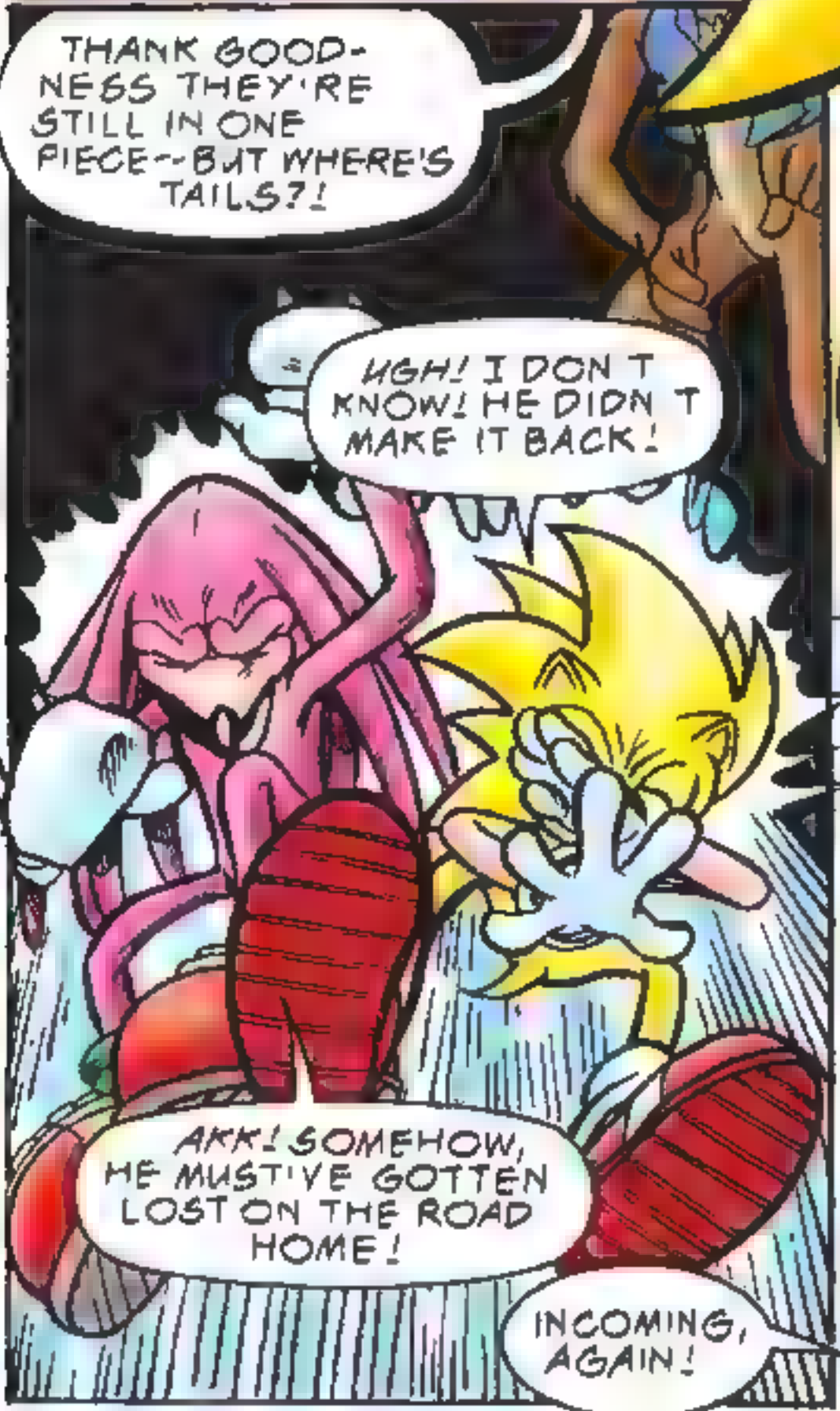


Ha! Ha! NOT A SIMPLE QUAKE, BUT CONTROL AND MOBILIZATION OF THE VERY ISLAND ITSELF!

JUST ONE OF MANY PHASES IN A MASTER PLAN UNFATHOMABLE BY LOWER EVOLUTIONARY FILTH SUCH AS YOURSELVES!



INCOMING!



THANK GOODNESS THEY'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE-- BUT WHERE'S TAILS?!

UGH! I DON'T KNOW! HE DIDN'T MAKE IT BACK!

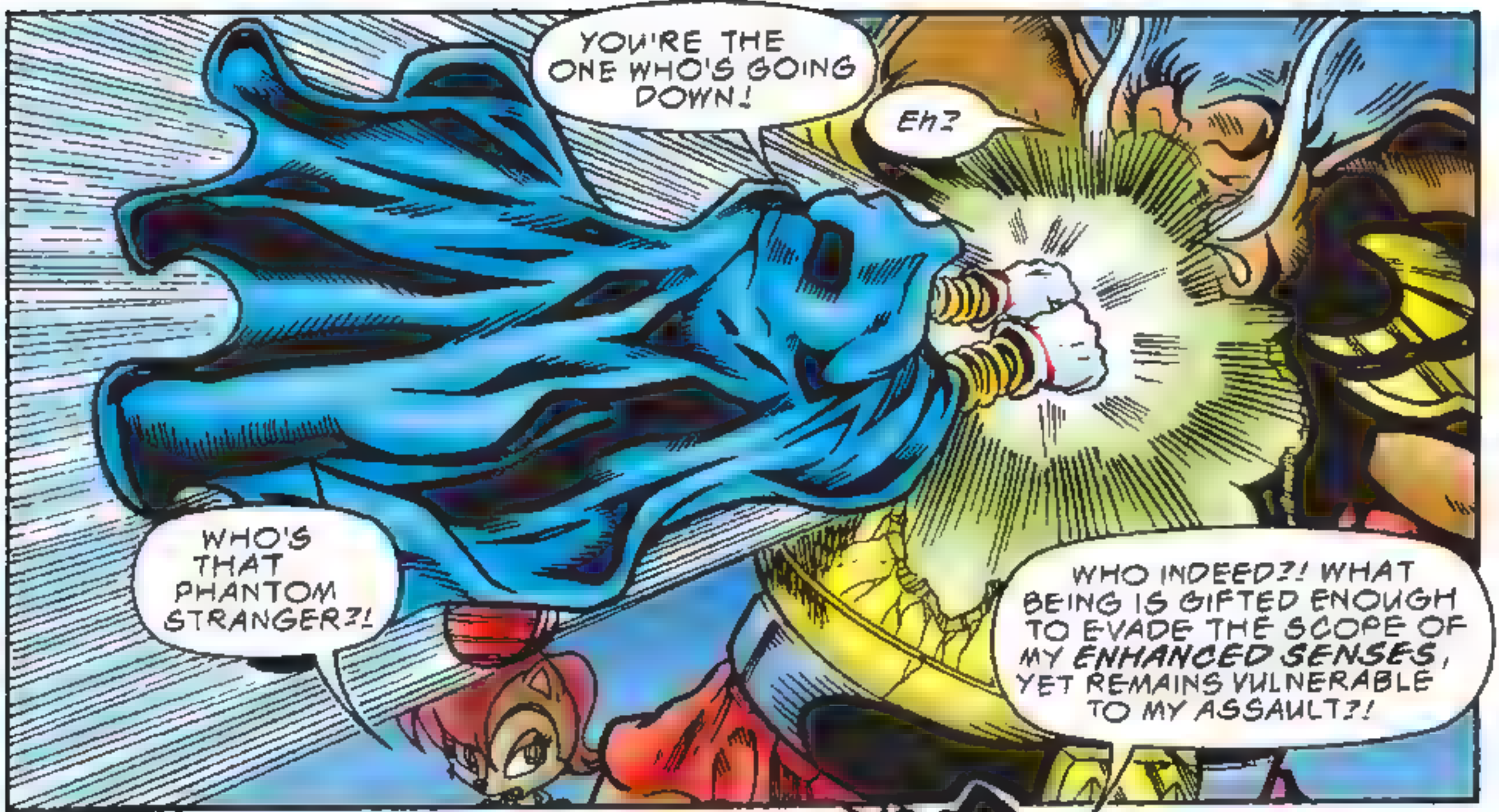
AKK! SOMEHOW, HE MUST'VE GOTTEN LOST ON THE ROAD HOME!

INCOMING, AGAIN!



WORRY NOT FOR A FALLEN COMRADE-- INSTEAD, MOURN FOR TWO WHO ARE ABOUT TO REACH THE END OF THEIR VERY MORTAL LIFESPAN!

GET REAL, MAMMOTH MORON!



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING DOWN!

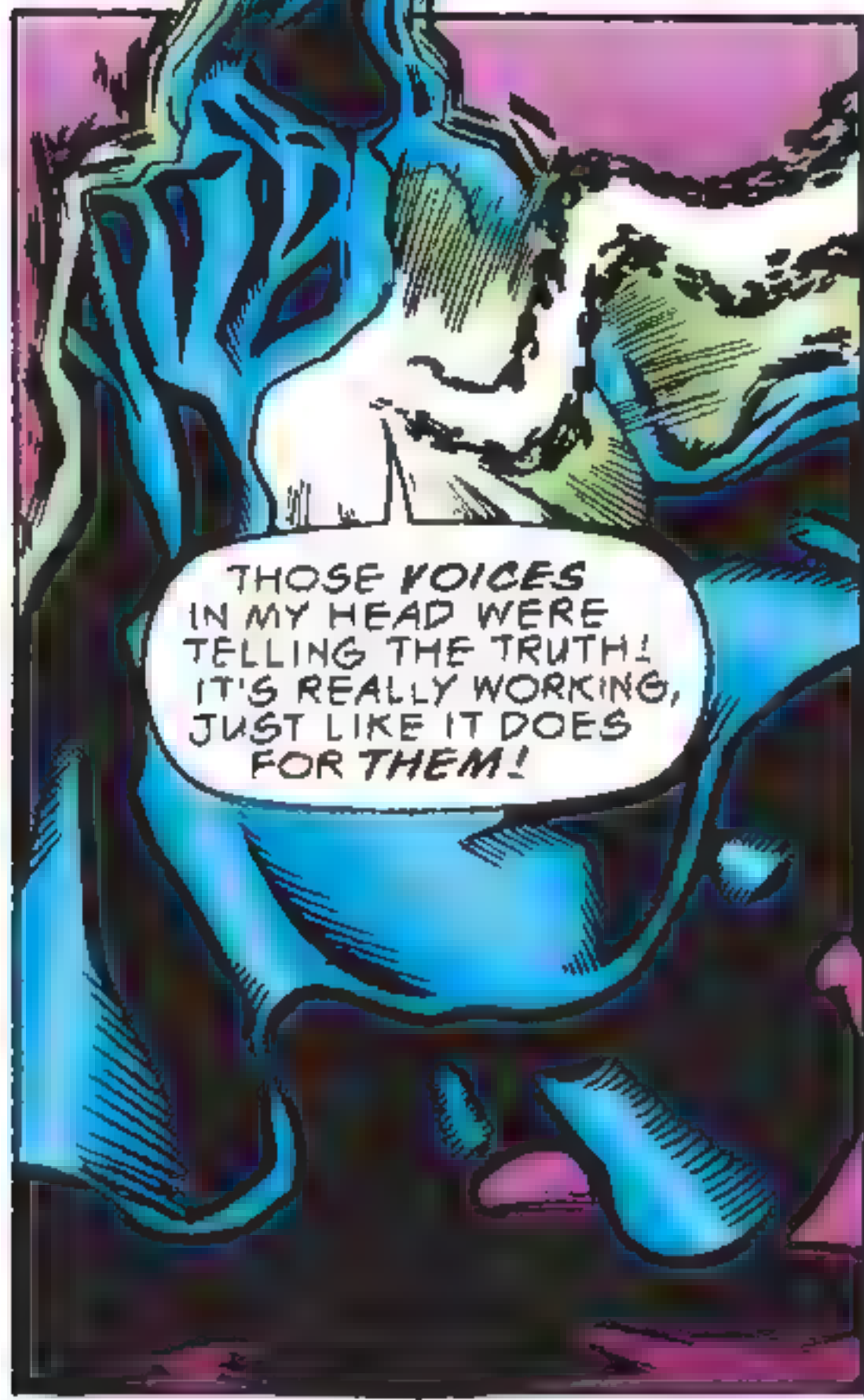
Eh?

WHO'S THAT PHANTOM STRANGER?!

WHO INDEED?! WHAT BEING IS GIFTED ENOUGH TO EVADE THE SCOPE OF MY ENHANCED SENSES, YET REMAINS VULNERABLE TO MY ASSAULT?!



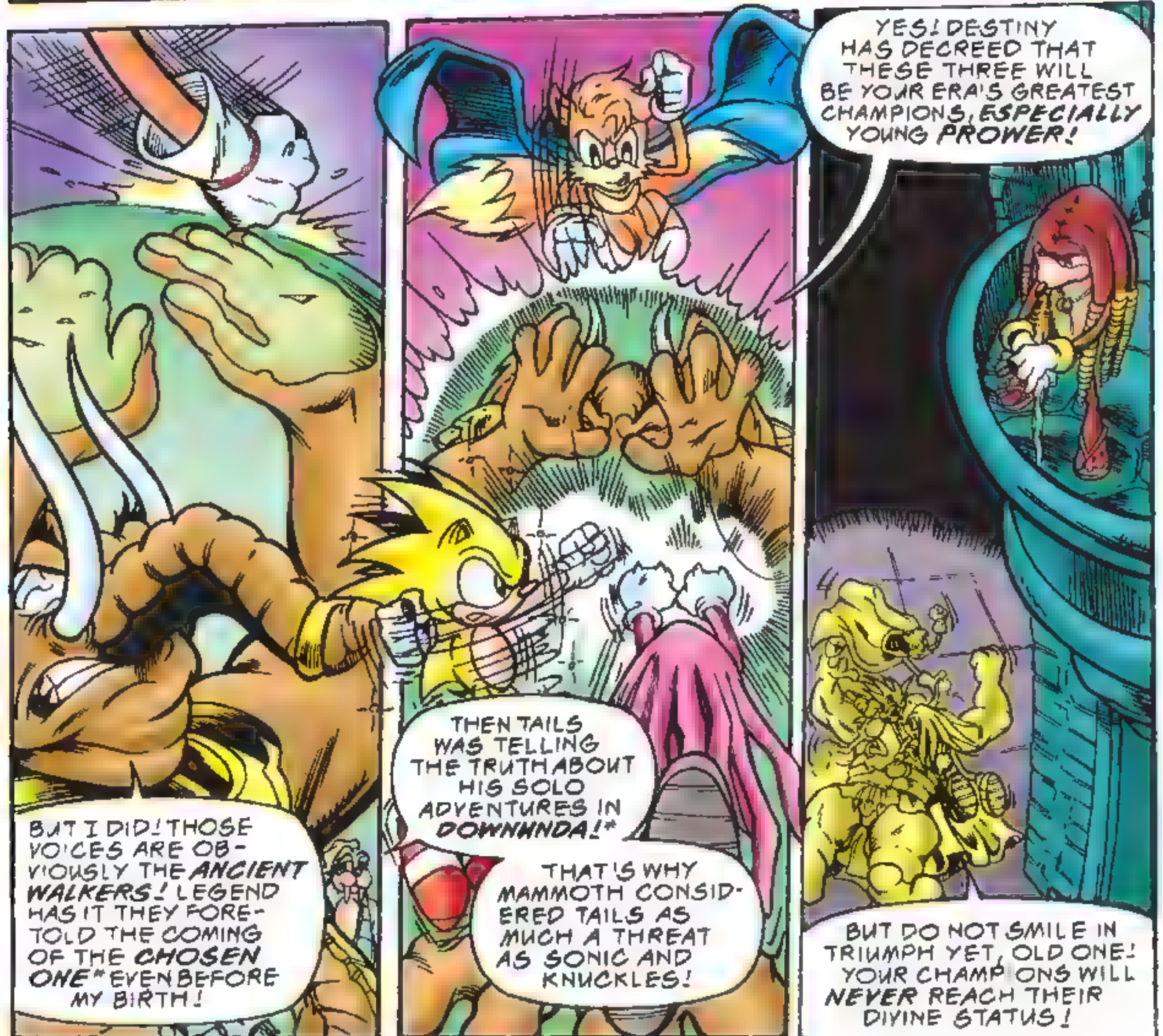
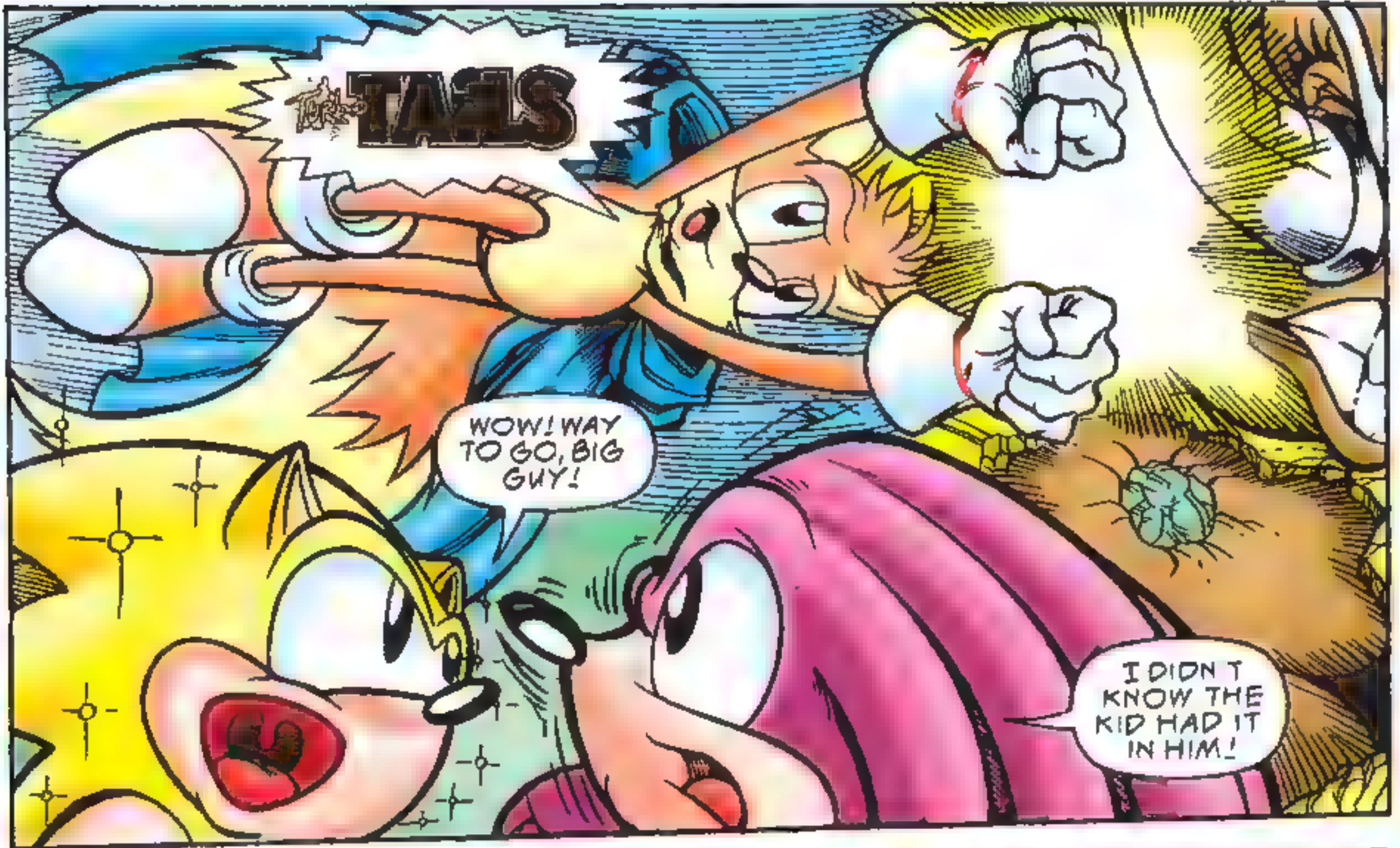
LOOKS LIKE HOMEBOY WASN'T EVEN TRYING TO DODGE!



THOSE VOICES IN MY HEAD WERE TELLING THE TRUTH! IT'S REALLY WORKING, JUST LIKE IT DOES FOR THEM!



NOW I REALLY AM CAPTAIN SUPER FOX-MAN! BUT I GUESS I SHOULD GO BY THE NAME THEY GAVE ME...



BUT I DID! THOSE VOICES ARE OBVIOUSLY THE ANCIENT WALKERS! LEGEND HAS IT THEY FORETOLD THE COMING OF THE CHOSEN ONE* EVEN BEFORE MY BIRTH!

THEN TAILS WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS SOLO ADVENTURES IN DOWNHND!*

THAT'S WHY MAMMOTH CONSIDERED TAILS AS MUCH A THREAT AS SONIC AND KNUCKLES!

YES! DESTINY HAS DECREED THAT THESE THREE WILL BE YOUR ERA'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PROWER!

BUT DO NOT SMILE IN TRIUMPH YET, OLD ONE! YOUR CHAMPIONS WILL NEVER REACH THEIR DIVINE STATUS!

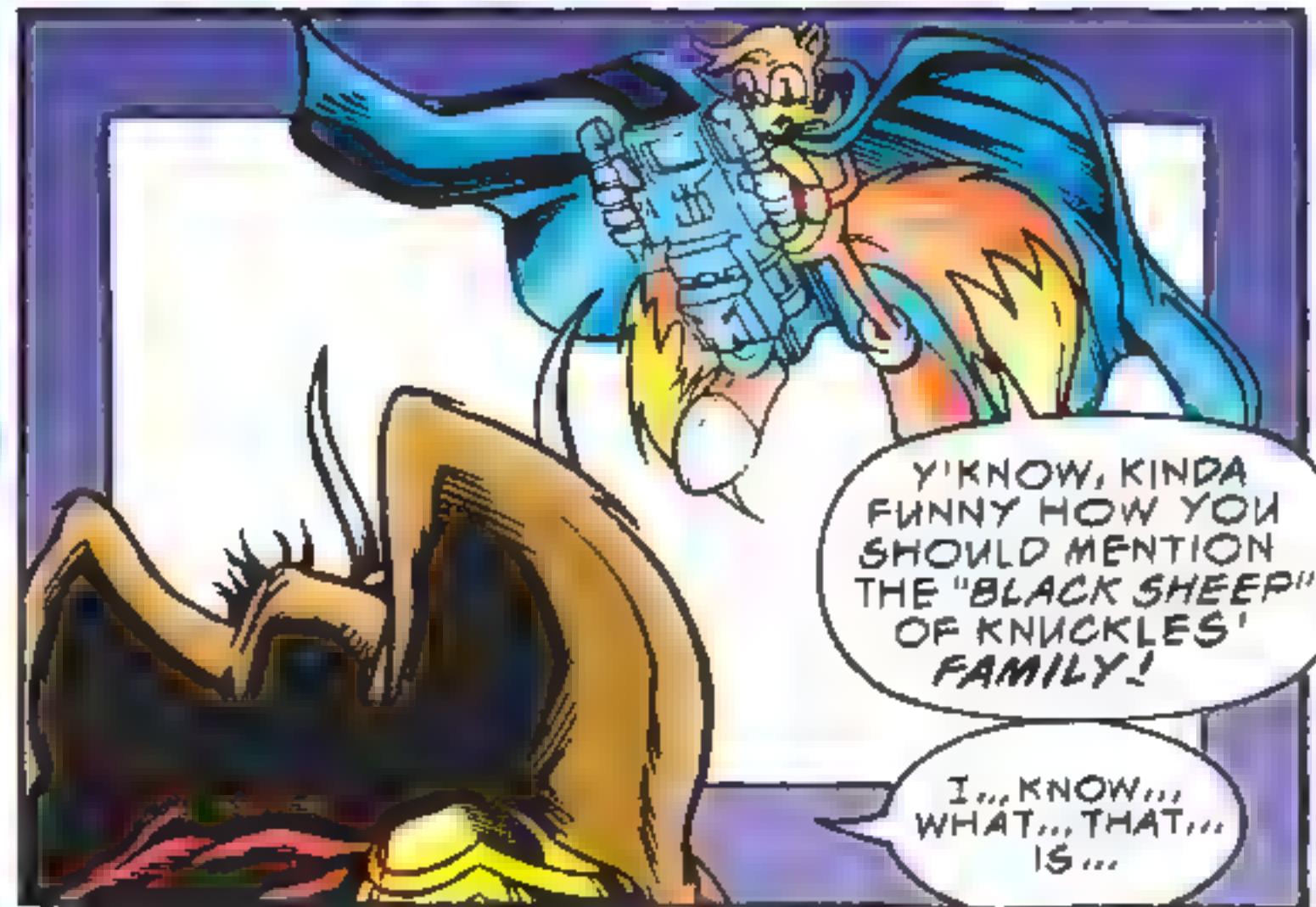
* SEE TAILS' MINI-SERIES -- EDITOR.



FOR IT HAS EVER BEEN TOLD SINCE ANCIENT TIMES THAT THE POWER OF A TITAN ALWAYS PALED BEFORE THAT OF A GOD...



...AND WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL AN IMMORTAL OVERLORD LIKE ME?! UNLIKE DIMITRI, I HAVE MASTERED MY CHAOTIC STRENGTHS AND INTEND TO...



Y'KNOW, KINDA FUNNY HOW YOU SHOULD MENTION THE "BLACK SHEEP" OF KNUCKLES' FAMILY!

I... KNOW... WHAT... THAT... IS...



AGH! THE CHAOS SYPHON!* WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RENEGADE ECHIDNA'S BRAINCHILD APPEARING HERE AND NOW-- YOU AT HAIR, OR YOUR MASTERS?!

FASHOON!

YES! I KNOW YOU'RE HERE... I CAN SEE YOU WATCHING...

* FIRST APPEARED IN SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 9 -- EDITOR



NEVERTHELESS,
PUT NOT TOO MUCH
FAITH IN YOUR
"CHOSEN ONE"!!!
ANCIENT WALKERS!
AMBITIONS AND
POWER OF MY CALIBER
LEAVE NO ROOM FOR
FAILURE!

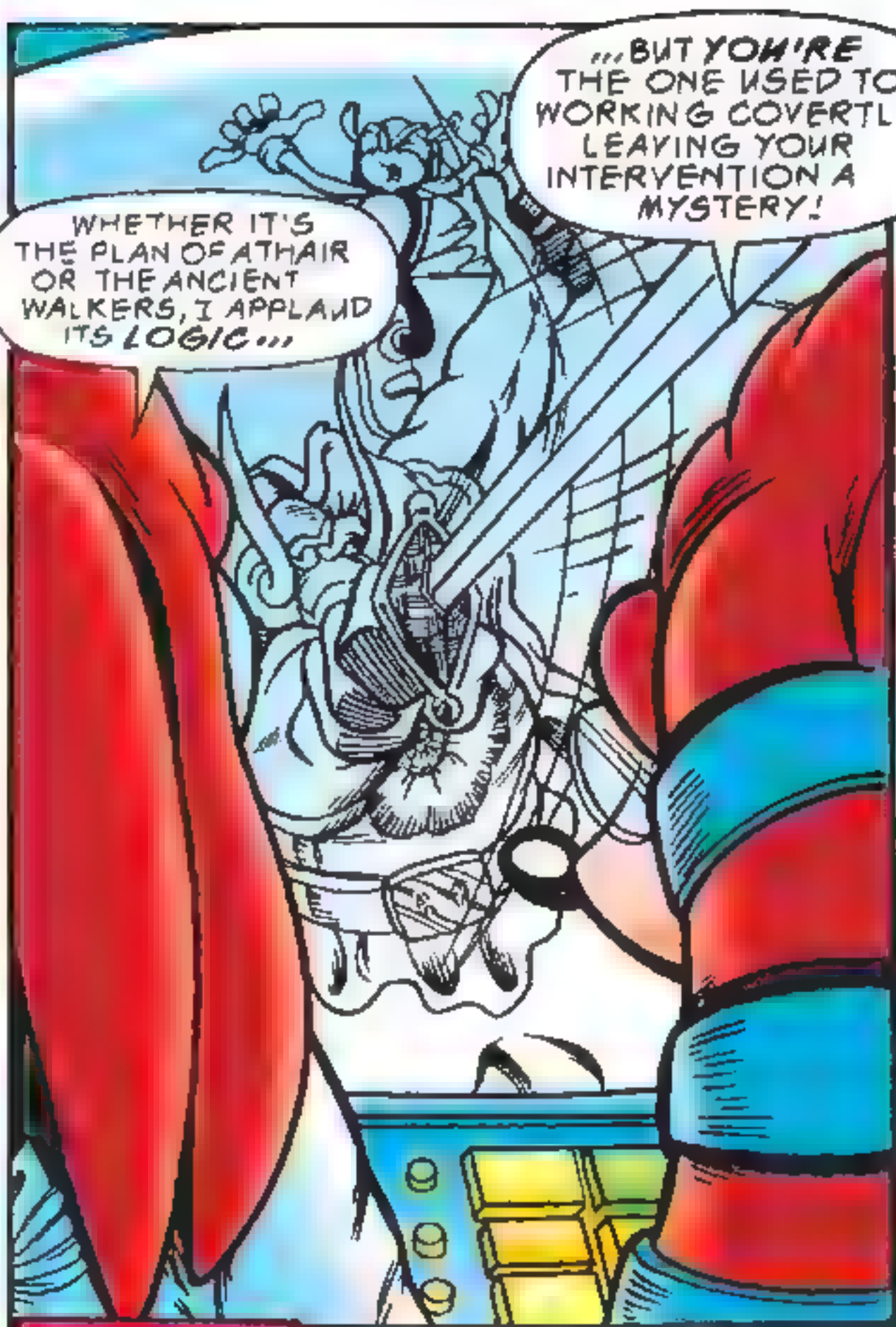
STILL,
CONCENTRATING
ALL YOUR POWER
IN ONE DIRECTION
DID FREE US!

GUESS HE WAS
TOO "AMBITIONOUS" TO
THINK OF **MINOR**
THINGS!

YOU GIVE
HIM TOO MUCH
CREDIT-- FOR
THINKING
THAT IZ!

I'M AFRAID STRATEGY
AND NUMBERS WON'T WIN
THE DAY, FOR THE MOMENT,
THE ONLY ADVANTAGE THEY
HAVE IS TAILS AND THAT!!!
THAT POWER SYPHON!

DO I DETECT
A NOTE OF ANGER
IN YOUR VOICE,
MY SON?



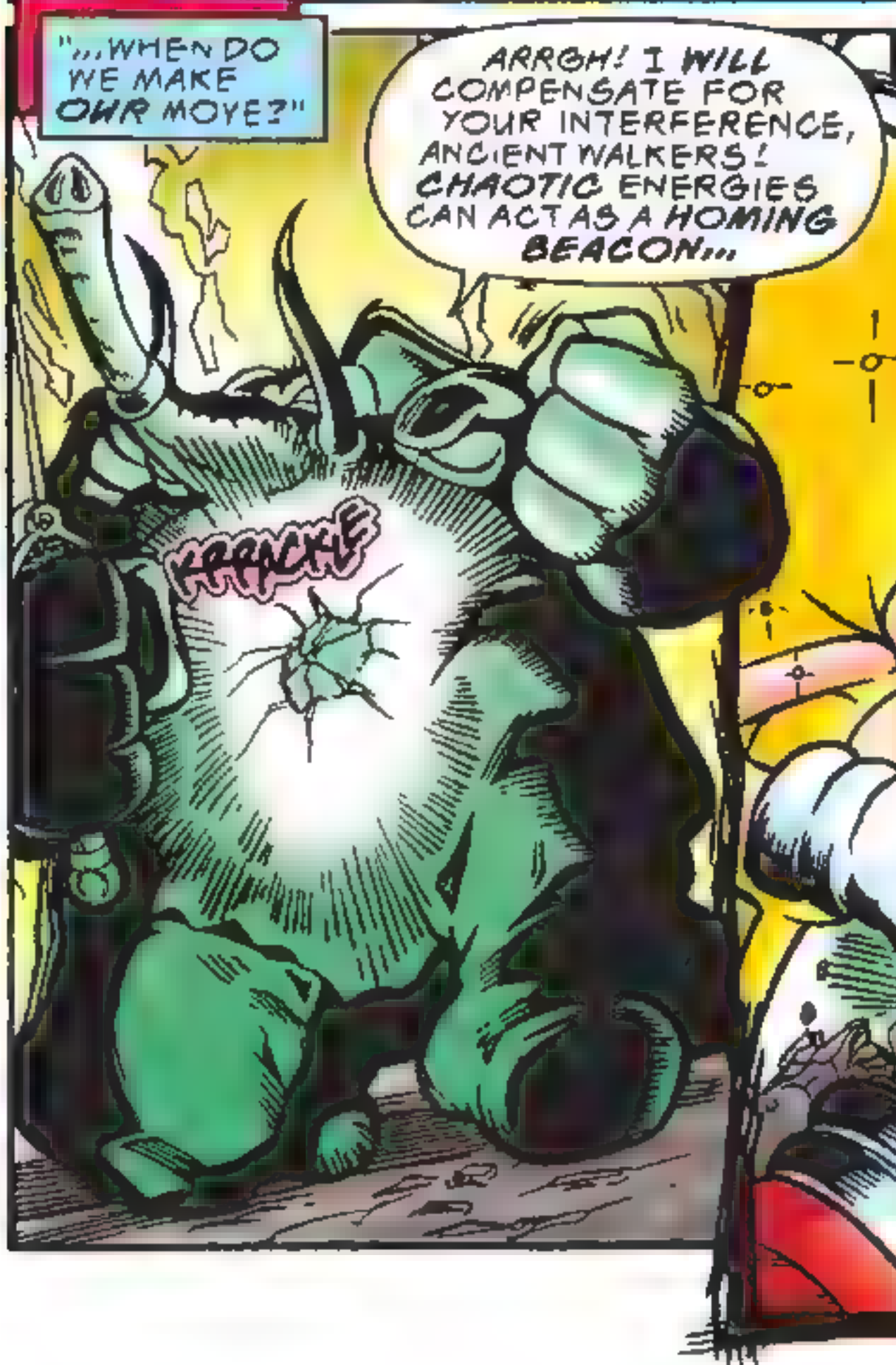
WHETHER IT'S THE PLAN OF ATHAIR OR THE ANCIENT WALKERS, I APPLAUD ITS LOGIC...

...BUT YOU'RE THE ONE USED TO WORKING COVERTLY, LEAVING YOUR INTERVENTION A MYSTERY!




SORT OF UNSETTLING WHEN SOMEONE ELSE DOES IT TO YOU, EH?

PERHAPS, BUT **THEY** ALWAYS MOVED IN DIFFERENT "COSMIC" CIRCLES. MY REAL CONCERN IS THAT WITH A CRISIS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE...



"...WHEN DO WE MAKE OUR MOYE?"

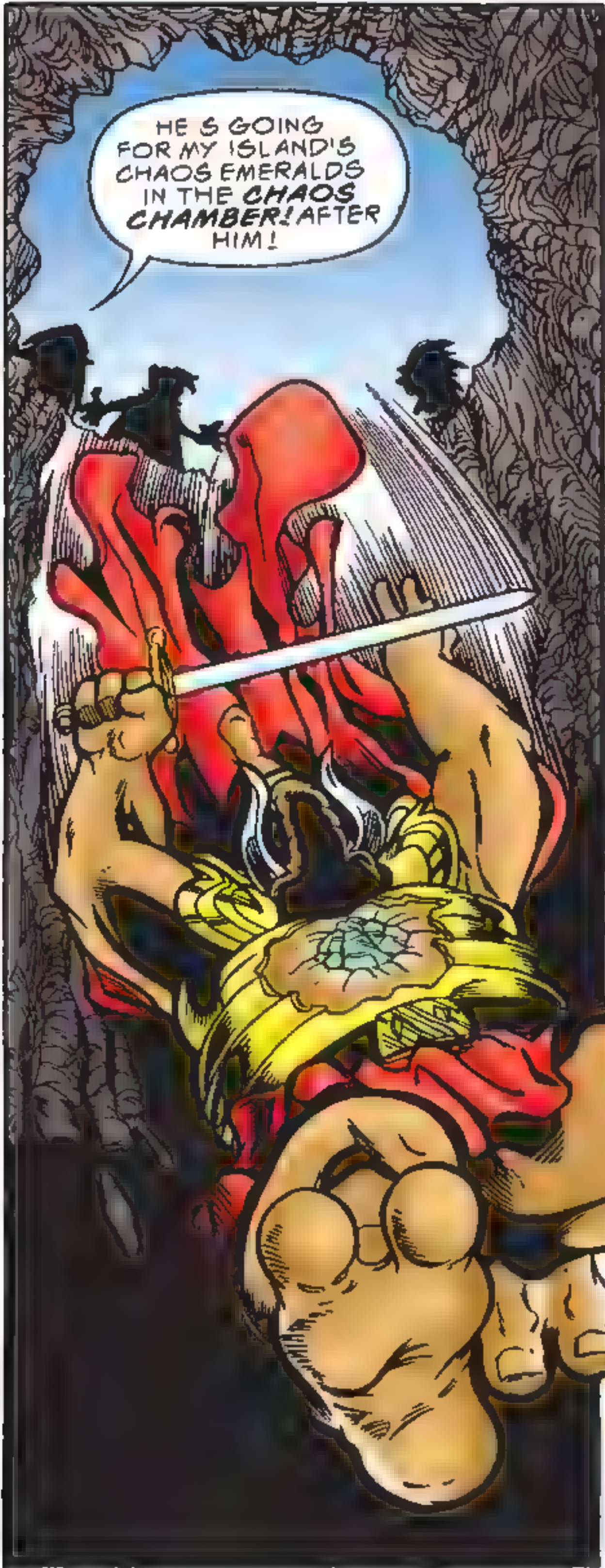
ARRGH! I WILL COMPENSATE FOR YOUR INTERFERENCE, ANCIENT WALKERS! CHAOTIC ENERGIES CAN ACT AS A HOMING BEACON...



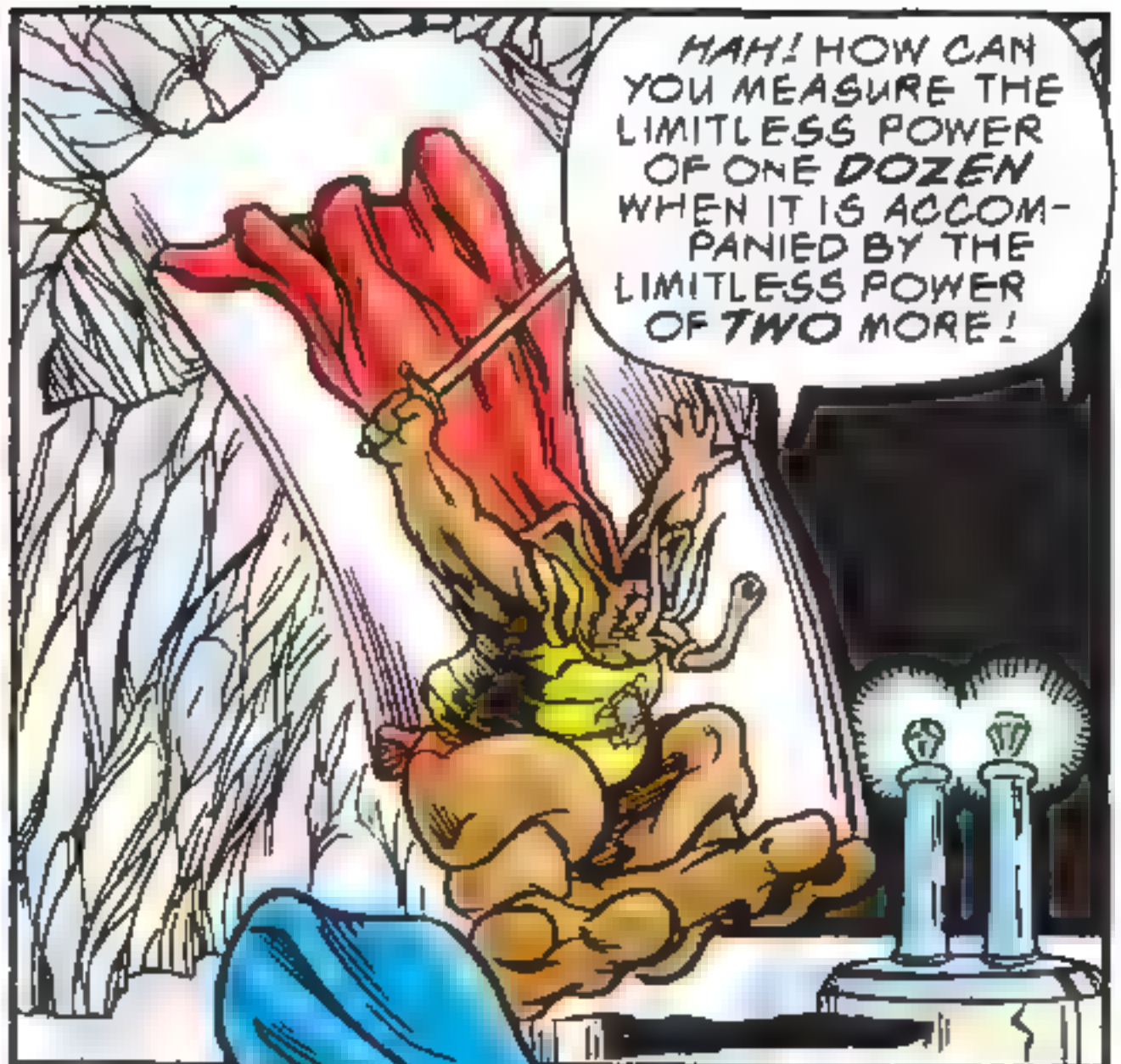
...AND "LIKE" POWERS WILL SEEK THEIR BRETHREN!

WHAT'S HE MEAN? WHAT'S HE DOING?

KATHOOO!



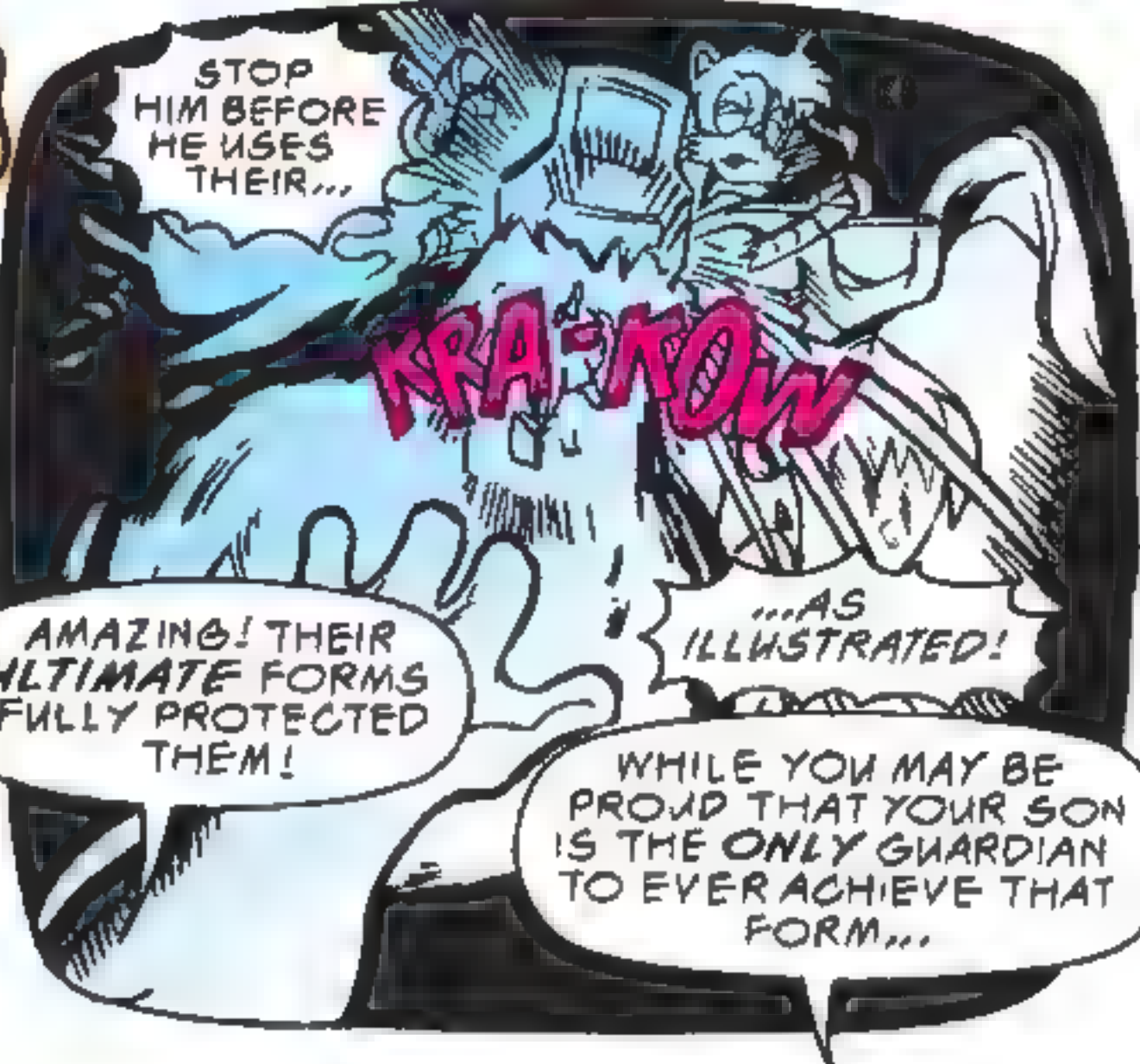
HE'S GOING FOR MY ISLAND'S CHAOS EMERALDS IN THE CHAOS CHAMBER! AFTER HIM!



HAH! HOW CAN YOU MEASURE THE LIMITLESS POWER OF ONE DOZEN WHEN IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE LIMITLESS POWER OF TWO MORE!



SUFFICE TO SAY, IT'S POWER ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH ANY MECHANICAL CONSTRUCT, NO MATTER HOW WELL DESIGNED!



STOP HIM BEFORE HE USES THEIR...

KRA-KOW

...AS ILLUSTRATED!

AMAZING! THEIR ULTIMATE FORMS FULLY PROTECTED THEM!

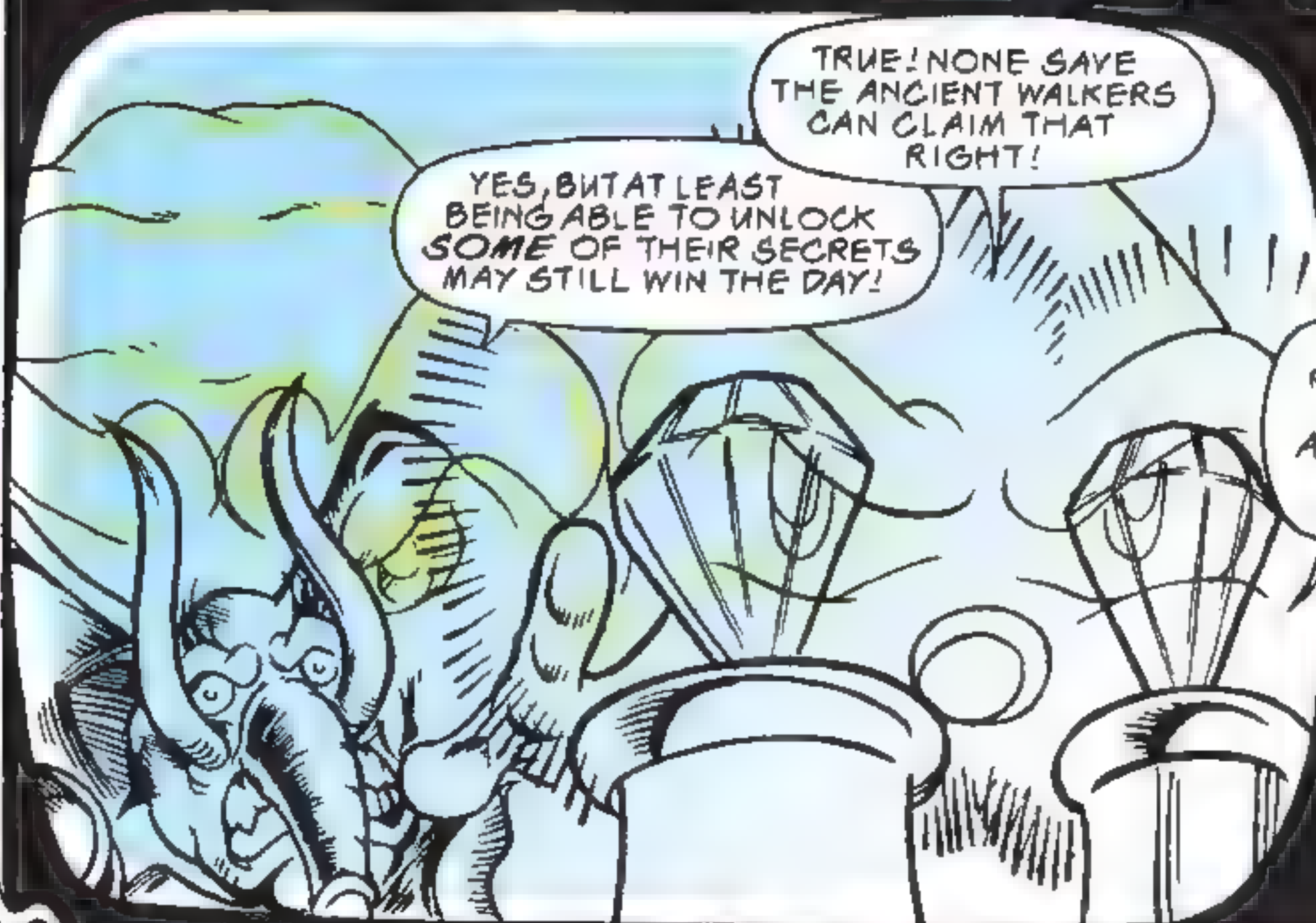
WHILE YOU MAY BE PROUD THAT YOUR SON IS THE ONLY GUARDIAN TO EVER ACHIEVE THAT FORM...



I KNOW, IT
STILL PALES BEFORE
TOTAL MASTERY
OF AN EMERALD'S
ENERGIES!



THAT IS SOMETHING
THAT NOT EVEN MAMMOTH
CAN CLAIM THIS DAY, NOR
DIMITRI BEFORE HIM!



TRUE! NONE SAYE
THE ANCIENT WALKERS
CAN CLAIM THAT
RIGHT!

YES, BUT AT LEAST
BEING ABLE TO UNLOCK
SOME OF THEIR SECRETS
MAY STILL WIN THE DAY!

I GET YOUR
POINT, HEREIN
LIES THE
ANSWER TO MY
PREVIOUS
QUESTION...

FOR THE GOOD
OF OUR PEOPLE, WE
ACT NOW! AND MAY
THE LIKES OF DIMITRI,
MOGUL OR ANY TYRANT
NEVER SUBJUGATE
OUR HOME WORLD
AGAIN!



DAWN SETTLES OVER ECHIDNAOPOLIS WITH THE LANDSCAPE REVEALING THE STRESS OF SEVERE CONFLICT...



GAZING UPON THE BATTLE RAVAGED EDIFICES, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANYBODY COULD CALL THIS DAY VICTORIOUS.

BUT NEVERTHELESS, A VICTORY OF SORTS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED...



WE STILL DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT CAUSED THAT CHAOTIC EXPLOSION, BUT AT LEAST OUR **SHPER** FORMS SAVED OUR HIDES!



AND YOU BELIEVE THAT, COMBINED WITH THE MYSTERIOUS DISTRESS CALL TO YOUR FRIENDS* TRANSLATES TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE?

SOUNDS LOGICAL TO ME!

SAYS YOU! I THINK THE EXPLOSION CHANGED US BACK, BUT SOMETHING OTHER THAN OUR **HYPER** FORMS SAVED OUR BUTTS!

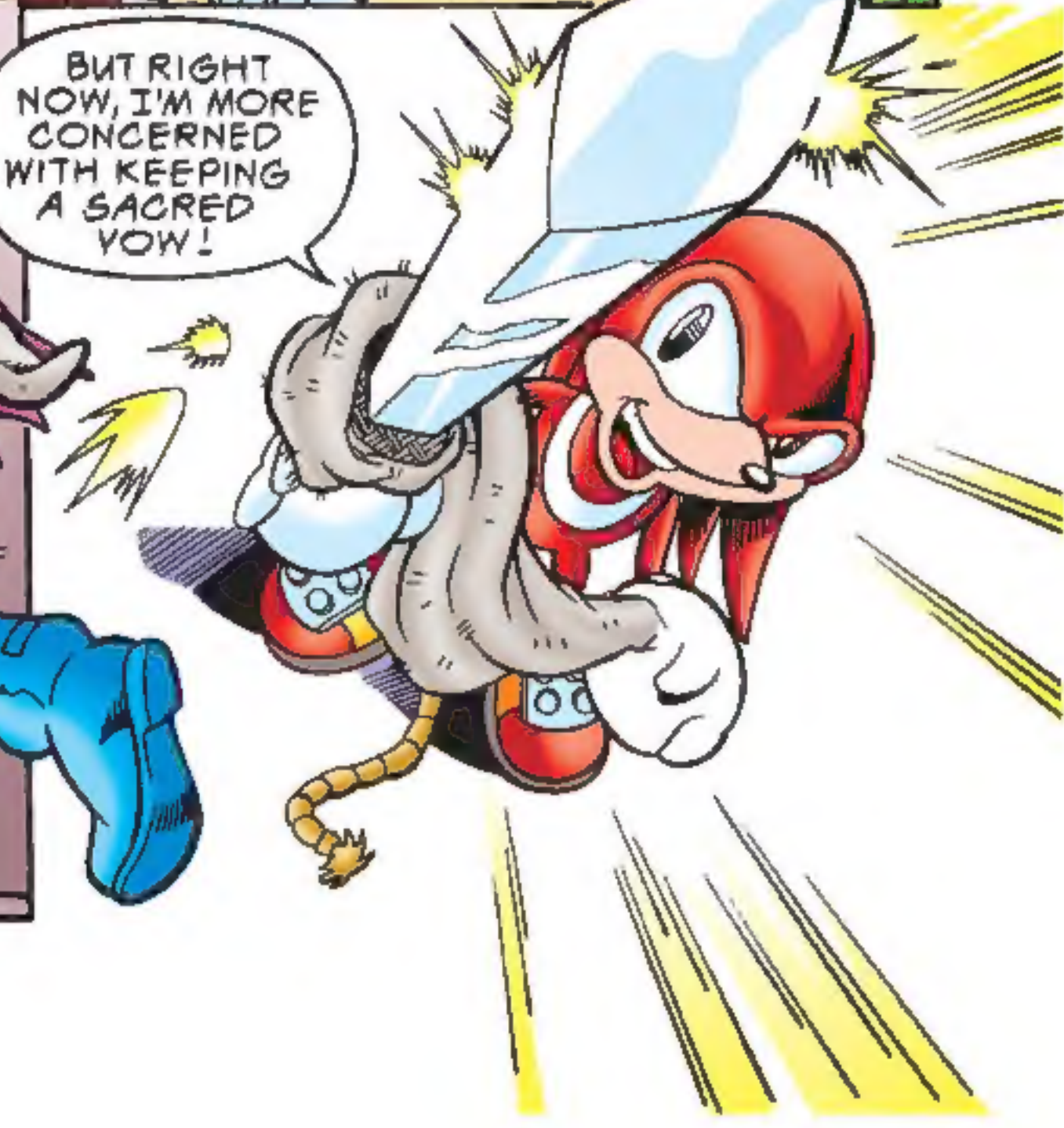
KNLIX ARCHIVES #2 & SONIC ARCHIVES #15! --EDITOR

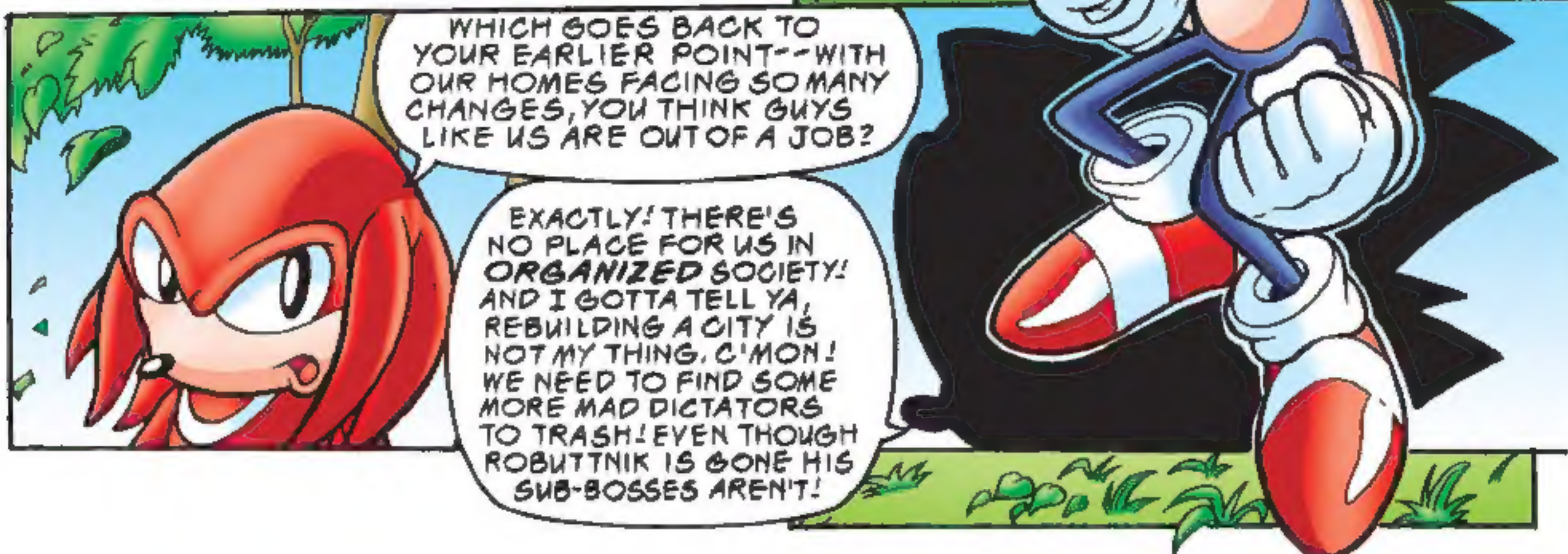
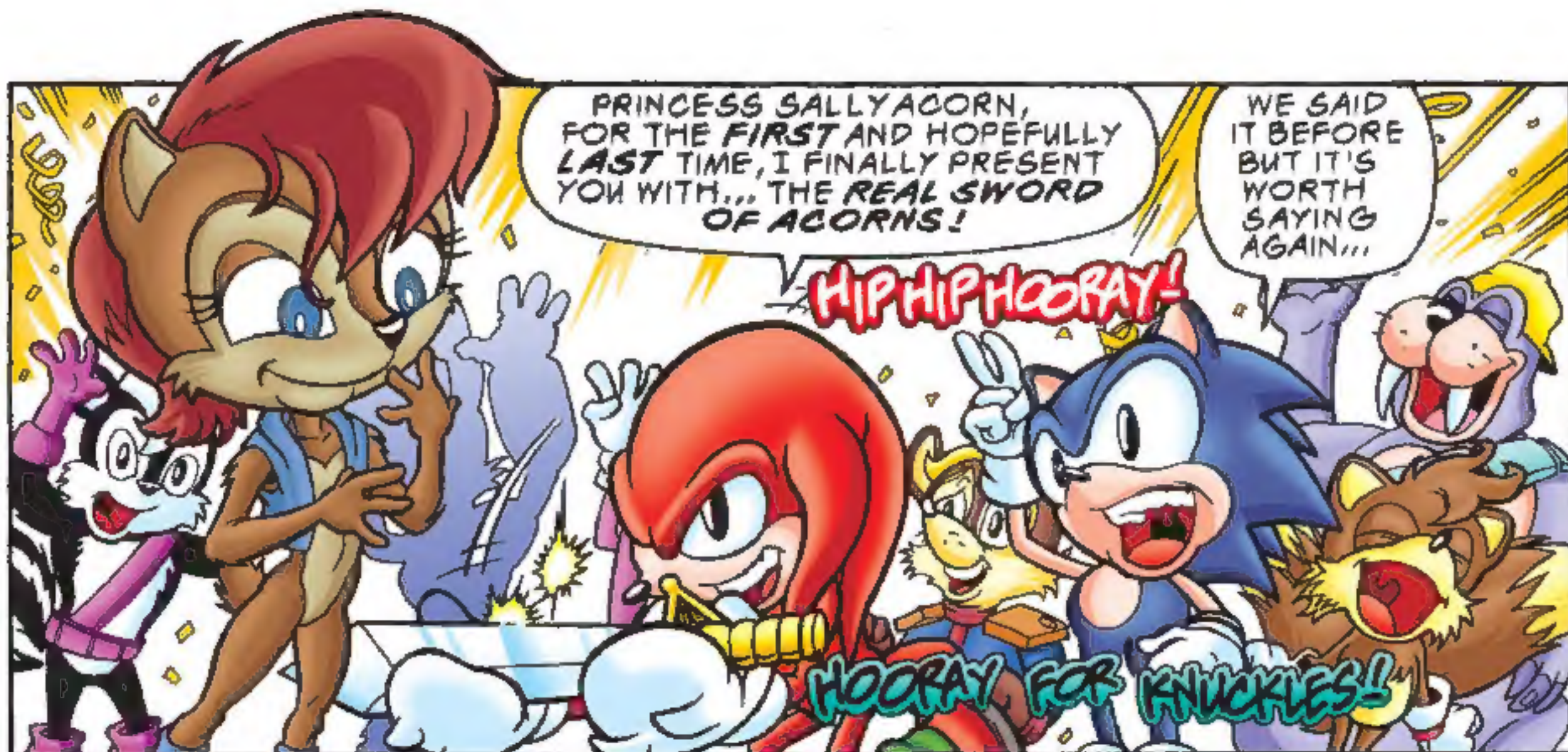


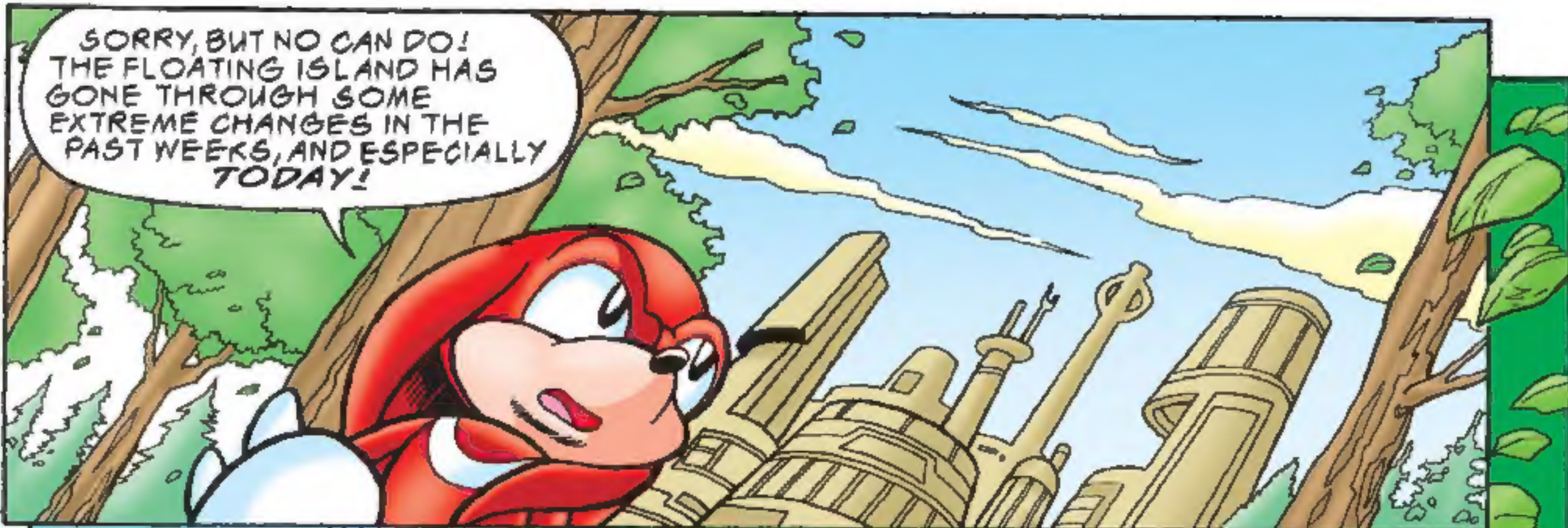
YES! TODAY BROUGHT FORTH A LOT MORE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS... BUT ONE DAY THEY WILL BE ANSWERED!

HERE YOU ARE, GUARDIAN!

BUT RIGHT NOW, I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH KEEPING A SACRED VOW!



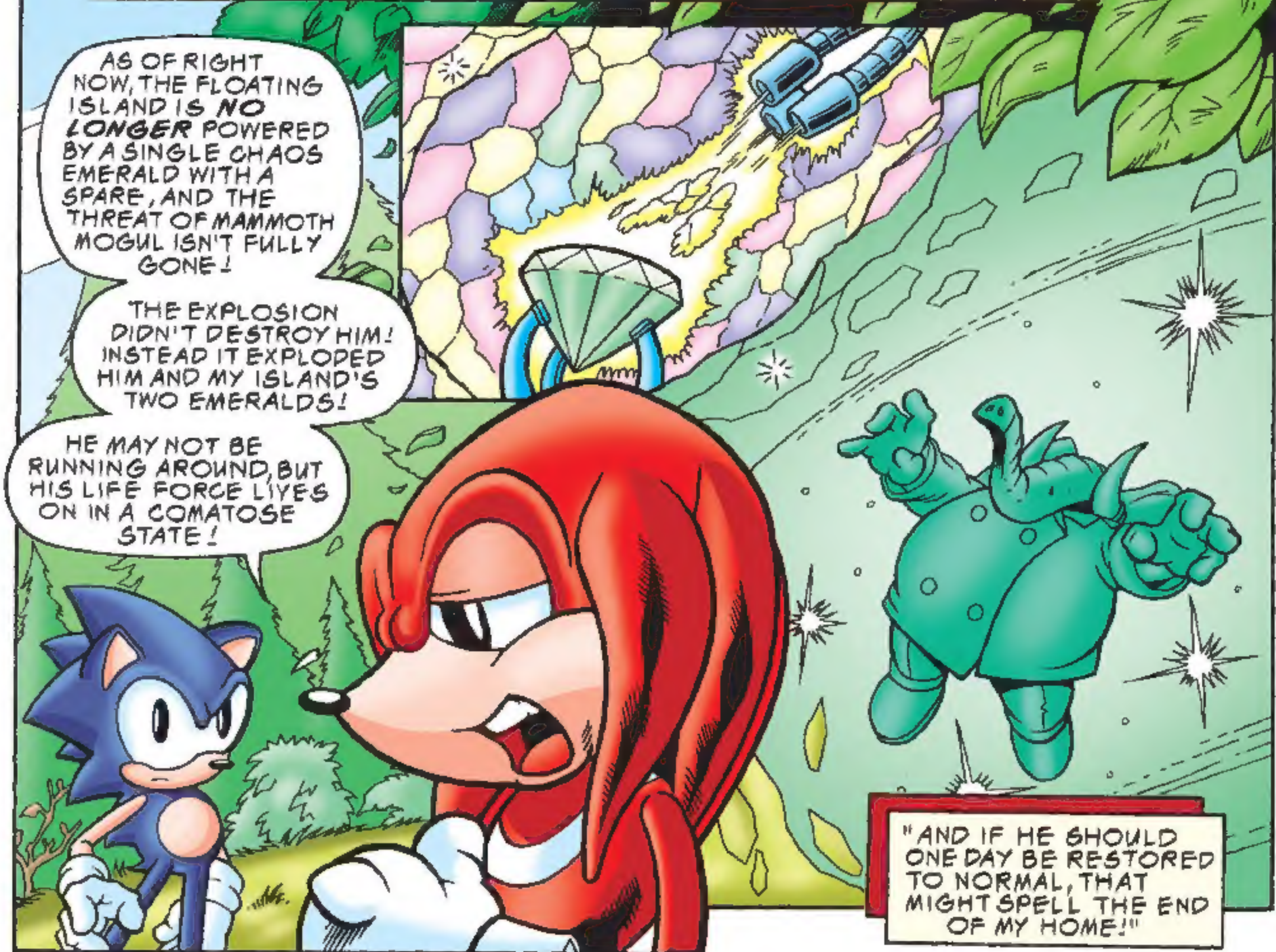




SORRY, BUT NO CAN DO!
THE FLOATING ISLAND HAS
GONE THROUGH SOME
EXTREME CHANGES IN THE
PAST WEEKS, AND ESPECIALLY
TODAY!



CHANGES THAT, WHOEVER
IS RESPONSIBLE, BE IT ATHAIR,
THE ANCIENT WALKERS OR
ANOTHER FORCE NEVER DREAMT
WOULD HAPPEN!



AS OF RIGHT
NOW, THE FLOATING
ISLAND IS **NO
LONGER** POWERED
BY A SINGLE CHAOS
EMERALD WITH A
SPARE, AND THE
THREAT OF MAMMOTH
MOGUL ISN'T FULLY
GONE!

THE EXPLOSION
DIDN'T DESTROY HIM!
INSTEAD IT EXPLODED
HIM AND MY ISLAND'S
TWO EMERALDS!

HE MAY NOT BE
RUNNING AROUND, BUT
HIS LIFE FORCE LIVES
ON IN A COMATOSE
STATE!

"AND IF HE SHOULD
ONE DAY BE RESTORED
TO NORMAL, THAT
MIGHT SPELL THE END
OF MY HOME!"

"THAT'S 'CAUSE THE FLOATING ISLAND IS NOW POWERED BY ONE GIANT CHAOS EMERALD... A LIVING CHAOS EMERALD..."

"A POWER BATTERY MADE UP OF FOURTEEN EMERALDS WITH MAMMOTH MOGUL'S LIFE ESSENCE AT THE VERY CENTER!"

"RIGHT NOW, ONE OF OUR MOST FEARED ENEMIES IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING MY HOME WORLD BY KEEPING THIS ISLAND AFLOAT!"

"FOR BETTER OR WORSE, MY PLACE IS HERE!"

WHAT'S UP, SONIC? DON'T TELL ME YOU HAD ANOTHER FIGHT WITH KNUCKLES?

NOPE, JUST BUSY WITH SOMETHING I USUALLY DON'T DO -- A LOT OF THINKING!

SO, YOU REALLY ARE THE "CHOSEN ONE", DESTINED TO BE A HERO GREATER THAN KNUCKLES AND ME?!

I SHOULD BE JEALOUS! BUT Y'KNOW I'M REALLY PROUD OF YOU!

THANKS! I GUESS I HAVE A LOT TO THINK ABOUT MYSELF, BUT RIGHT NOW I JUST MISS MY TURBO POWER!

I THINK LIKE ME, YOU JUST REALLY MISS THE CHANCE TO HELP THE "LITTLE GUY"! KNUX MAY HAVE DECLINED, BUT HOW ABOUT YOU, BIG GUY? UP FOR SOME REAL ADVENTURES AS YOU GROW INTO YOUR MANTLE OF SAVIOR?

HOW ABOUT YOU?! UP FOR SOME SOLO ADVENTURES OF YOUR FAVORITE DUO? CHECK OUT THE NEXT ISSUE AS SONIC AND TAILS HIT THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE!